

2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 19

¹ And they brought word to Joab, saying, "Behold, the king weeps and mourns for Absalom." ² And the victory was turned that day into mourning for all the people, for the people heard it said that day, "The king grieves after his son." ³ And the people stole away that day to go into the city, as people steal away when they are ashamed as they flee in the battle. ⁴ And the king hid his face. And the king cried with a loud voice, "My son Absalom! Absalom my son!" ⁵ And Joab went in to the king, into the house, and said, "You have this day shamed the faces of all your servants that have delivered you this day, and *have saved* the lives of your sons and of your daughters, and the lives of your wives, and of your concubines, ⁶ forasmuch as you love them that hate you, and hate them that love you; and you have this day declared, that your princes and your servants are nothing *in your sight*; for I know this day, that if Absalom were alive, *and* all of us were dead today, then it would have been right in your sight. ⁷ And now arise and go forth, and speak comfortably to your servants; for I have sworn by the Lord, that unless you will go forth this day, there shall not a man remain with you this night. And know for yourself, this thing *will* indeed *be* evil to you beyond all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now." ⁸ Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And all the people reported, saying, "Behold, the king sits in the gate." And all the people went in before the king to the gate (for Israel had fled every man to his tent).

⁹ And all the people disputed among all the tribes of Israel, saying, "King David delivered us from all our enemies, and he rescued us from the hand of the Philistines; and now he has fled from the land, and from his kingdom, and from Absalom. ¹⁰ And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. And now, why are you silent about bringing back the king? And the word of all Israel came to the king."

¹¹ And King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, "Speak to the elders of Israel, saying, 'Why are you the last to bring back the king to his house, since the word of all Israel have come to the king, to this *very* house? ¹² You *are* my brothers, you *are* my bones and my flesh: why are you the last to bring back the king to his house?' ¹³ And you shall say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? And now God do so to me and more also, if you shall not be commander of the army before me continually in the place of Joab.'" ¹⁴ And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah as that of one man; and they sent to the king, saying, "Return, you and all your servants." ¹⁵ And the king returned, and came as far as the Jordan. And the men of Judah came to Gilgal on their way to meet the king, to cause the king to pass over the Jordan. ¹⁶ And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjamite, of Bahurim, made haste and went down with the men of Judah to meet King David. ¹⁷ And a thousand men of Benjamin *were* with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons with him, and his twenty servants with him. And they went directly down to the Jordan before the king, ¹⁸ and they performed the service of bringing the king over; and a ferryboat went across to move the household of the king, and to do that which was right in his eyes. And Shimei the son of Gera fell on his face before the king, as he went over the Jordan, ¹⁹ and said to the king, "Let not my lord now impute

iniquity, and remember not all the iniquity of your servant in the day in which my lord went out from Jerusalem, so that the king should mind it. ²⁰ For your servant knows that I have sinned; and behold, I have come this day before all Israel and the house of Joseph, to go down and meet my lord the king." ²¹ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" ²² And David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you lie in wait against me this day? Today no man in Israel shall be put to death, for I know not this day if I reign over Israel." ²³ And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die"; and the king swore to him.

²⁴ And Memphibosheth the son of Saul's son went down to meet the king, and had not dressed his feet, nor trimmed his nails, nor shaved himself, neither had he washed his garments, from the day that the king departed, until the day that he arrived in peace. ²⁵ And it came to pass when he went into Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Memphibosheth?" ²⁶ And Memphibosheth said to him, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me; for your servant said to him, 'Saddle me the donkey, and I will ride upon it, and go with the king'; for your servant *is* lame. ²⁷ And he has dealt deceitfully with your servant to my lord the king. But my lord the king *is* like an angel of God; do that which is good in your eyes. ²⁸ For all of my father's house were as dead men before my lord the king; yet you have set your servant among them that eat at your table; and what right have I any longer even to cry to the king?" ²⁹ And the king said to him, "Why speak any longer of these matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba shall divide the land.'" ³⁰ And Memphibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, since my lord the king has come in peace to his house."

³¹ And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and crossed over the Jordan with the king, that he might escort the king over the Jordan. ³² And Barzillai was a very old man, eighty years old; and he had provided for the king when he dwelt in Mahanaim; for he was a very great man. ³³ And the king said to Barzillai, "You shall go over with me, and I will nourish your old age with me in Jerusalem." ³⁴ And Barzillai said to the king, "How many *are* the days of the years of my life, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? ³⁵ I am this day eighty years old: can I then distinguish between good and evil? Can your servant taste any longer what I eat or drink? Can I hear the voice of singing men or singing women any longer? And why shall your servant be a burden to my lord the king any longer? ³⁶ Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. And why does the king return me this recompense? ³⁷ Let your servant remain, I pray, and I will die in my city, by the tomb of my father and of my mother. And behold, your servant Chimham shall go over with my lord the king; and do to him as it seems good in your eyes." ³⁸ And the king said, "Let Chimham go over with me, and I will do to him what is good in my sight; and whatsoever you shall choose at my hand, I will do for you." ³⁹ And all the people crossed over the Jordan, and the king crossed over. And the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned to his place.

⁴⁰ And the king went over to Gilgal and Chimham went over with him. And all the men of Judah crossed over with the king, and also half the people of Israel. ⁴¹ And behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, "Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away, and caused the king

and all his house to pass over the Jordan, and all the men of David with him?" ⁴²
And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel and said, "Because the king is our relative: and why were you thus angry concerning this matter? Have we indeed eaten of the king's food? Or has he given us a gift, or has he sent us a portion?" ⁴³ And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah and said, "We have ten portions in the king, and we are older than you, we have also an interest in David above you: and why have you thus insulted us, and why was not our advice taken before that of Judah, to bring back our king?" And the speech of the men of Judah was sharper than the speech of the men of Israel.