

Spirit of Life Prayer Meeting August 29, 2006
Pastor William Dawson – 2 Samuel Chapter 15 and 16

1. [Vs. 19-22](#). Notice that God is about to use the wilderness as a place of further development in David's life. David learned some powerful lessons about trusting God while hiding from Saul in the wilderness. He learned that God does not abandon us when we fail. You may have done the most shameful things in life and as a result of your behavior have lost family, friends, home and financial security. Read this story carefully. Study the mercy of God. God will stick with you during your trials. God will use the problems in your life as training for your next promotion. Do not curse the wilderness. Go with God.
2. The more rebels there are, the greater the need for you to be loyal. You can learn a lot from Ittai's loyalty. He was there when David was down. His support for David could cost his life. His was a public stance. He was not a secret, silent supporter. If this man felt that David needed his support, how much so should we support Christ, seeing all that He has done for us? Ittai's statement reminds me of the bond between Ruth and Naomi. Sometimes it is someone outside your family who will help you the most.
3. [Vs. 23-24](#). We do not like going over Kedron. When it comes to our trials, how we struggle against suffering, and against dishonor and slander! Mr. Shame proves too much for us. We will never take a step back even when that backward step will lead to forward progress. We refuse to cross our Kedron.
4. [Vs 25-29](#). David shows great confidence in God, and great humility. He knew God would restore him if he delighted in him, and he was not willing to carry off from the city of God that which was needed for public worship. He was not selfish in his retreat. It is no wonder God loved him. David sent the Priest back to the city to spy on his behalf. Some of the most effective spies in history have been ministers. ([Read the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#) – placed in prison for spying against the Nazi's).
5. [Vs 30](#) is very significant. **Every** man should read this passage. David was in touch with his emotions. He was a man of passion. David covered his head. This was not only the attitude of a mourner, but also of a condemned man. They usually had their heads covered when condemned. (See the case of Haman. When the king had pronounced his condemnation, they immediately covered his face, and led him out to punishment - [Esther 7:8](#)). **Does the location remind you of anything in the life of Jesus?** David went up the Mount of Olives. When Jesus went from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, He essentially traced David's steps. Both David and Jesus suffered for sin, but Jesus suffered for our sins and David suffered for his own. He wept as he went up. David was struck by the greatness of this tragedy in that an entire nation was made to suffer as a result of his sins. Sin is not something to play with. How much have you lost because of sin? How much have you been spared because you have given your life to Christ? This wasn't a pity-party or sorrow merely over the consequences of sin. David is crushed by the awareness that his punishment is deserved. This is the bitter fruit of sin.

6. Some would say God let David off easy - that he deserved the death penalty for adultery and murder. If God forgave him and spared David that penalty, surely David would just do it again. Those who say that don't understand how grace and forgiveness work in the heart of the redeemed. David's sin was ever before him - and in a strange combination of deep gratitude and horror over his forgiven sin, David never did it again. God knows how to get you to a place where He can trust you again. Don't give up. No matter what you are going through, God can see you through it. Today is not the end of your story. There is more to your life than what happened yesterday or today. Weeping may endure for the night, but joy does come in the morning.
7. [Vs. 31-37](#). It appears that Hushai was not a warrior, but a wise, discreet man, who could well serve David by spying on Absalom.
8. [Chapter 16:1-4](#). Ziba was a low-life selfish animal. How unfounded was this accusation against the peaceable, loyal and innocent Mephibosheth! This action of David of giving away Mephibosheth's belongings was very rash. He should have left things alone until further investigation. When we act based on our immediate feelings and passion we often make the wrong choice or we overact. There was a good explanation for his absence. He was lame of both his feet, ([2 Samuel 9:13](#)), though he could have rode upon an ass, and followed the king, as he proposed to do; but his servant deceived him, and carried off the asses to serve a purpose for himself, see ([2 Samuel 19:26](#)). Ziba left Mephibosheth behind to make it look like Mephibosheth did not support David. This report from Ziba hurt David, because at a time of crisis like this the last thing you need to hear is that another one has turned against you. Ziba was utterly despicable, and the more so because at the moment the sorrow he brought more misery to David. David assumed Ziba was telling the truth and he rewarded his loyalty and punished Mephibosheth. This was exactly the response Ziba wanted. Ziba is an example of someone who will quickly use a crisis for his own benefit.
9. [Vs. 5-11](#). God did not tell Shimei to curse David. To curse the ruler of the people is contrary to the word and law of God, ([Exodus 22:28](#)). This statement is a reflection of the emphasis of the Hebrew language, which does not always distinguish between permission and commandment. Often the Scripture will say God did something when He had only permitted it to be done. God allowed it to happen or He did not stop it from happening but it is written as if God did it. David considers all this as being permitted of God for his discipline and growth in trusting in the Lord for strength. One of the best ways to understand this passage is seeing it as a statement of God removing the hedge of protection from David. The curse came as a result of David's actions.
10. Shimei sensed David was under the discipline of God and took advantage of the situation. God allowed Shimei to express the evil that was in his heart. This action was springing from his own heart as Satan directed him. Satan was hoping to discourage David even more.
11. **Discussion questions: Describe a time in your life when you have been discouraged? How did you deal with it? How did God treat you? How were you treated by people in your family, your friends and church members?**