

Shall We Gather at the River

2 Sam 19:9 - 39

Intro

David will return to the nation, not as a conqueror but as a received prince. He stands at the door and knocks.

v. 9-10 “quarrelling” . . . “Should we receive him back or not?”

But there would be no reconciliation without an invitation, repentance

Some did not want to repent

Others? said 1. He laid his life down for us.
2. And Absalom, our hope, has failed us.

The faithful must make their decision amidst peer pressure. They still do.

v. 11 Judah was reticent. They are embarrassed as their shame is greatest.

So David sends priests to admonish them.

So today men must be exhorted to repentance by “Priests”

v. 12 David appeals to his mercy

v. 13 And then sends a message, an earnest of mercy in that he forgives, exalts and secures the “chief of sinners,” Amasa.

God did this for us through Peter and Paul.

v. 14 Here is efficacious grace. He “bowed the heart” of all Israel. “Return” to where you belong.

v. 15 Judah led in repentance. “Those forgiven much love much.”

vv 16-39 – Four people wait to meet him.

Two who are bad. Two who are good.

1. Ziba: The phony – He’s scared thus he wants David’s favor early on, because his falseness is about to be uncovered.

He will lose what he thought he had gained by deceit.
How terrible to live a lie!

2. Shimei: He wants mercy because he was open in contempt.

He felt David had cost him prestige so he cursed him.

But never considered that David would crush evil and return.

Abishar wants judgment but David knows that he has been forgiven. So he bestows it on others . . . but there is more to come on Shimei.

3. Mephibosheth: He has been accused, slandered, and lied about.

But here he was, an obvious picture of faithfulness.

“If David suffers I will suffer with him.”

Though surrounded by evil he will be open and loyal and defiant and proud of his king, unashamed, believing in his return.

“Ya’ll have your king. I have mine.”

Here is his argument –

- “I was slandered.” So are we.
- His works proved him true. So do ours.
- He knows David can discern.
- He would *never* forsake a gracious king.
- Restoration! David declares him as truly his child.
- “Who cares!” All that matters is you.

4. Barzillai: the “Iron man”

He is old and faithful when it was tough. He used his material goods to support David’s cause. He walks with David ***all the way*** to Jordan.

- David offers him a retirement.
- He said he merely did his duty (v.36)
- He also said that earthly delights are no longer important. (v.35)
- He faced facts. “I would be a burden.” (v. 35)
- Different things are more important to me now. (v.37)
- But you can take my future – my son, Chimham. (v.37)