

A Look at Forgiveness: David & Shimei

2 Samuel 16 – David's life has reached its greatest low point. He has never been lower – ever. While David fleeing for his life – a man named Shimei comes out – adding to his misery. Shimei – who was of the family of Saul, pours out the hate in his heart on a man who at his lowest ebb. In 16:10-13 – David refuses to retaliate. How could he do that? Do we possess a forgiving spirit? It is one of the most difficult things to acquire.

I. What do we most often do?

- A. We offer conditional forgiveness:
 - 1. *I will forgive you...if... I will forgive you AS SOON AS...*
 - 2. The other person must own up to their end of the problem first – and that determines how we will respond.
- B. We offer partial forgiveness.
 - 1. *I'll forgive you...but don't expect me to forget...*
- C. We offer delayed forgiveness.
 - 1. *I'll forgive you ...just give me time.*
- D. Most of us would rather sit on the judgment seat than the mercy seat.
 - 1. Unforgiveness has a dramatic; downward effect on entire life.

II. David demonstrates complete forgiveness.

- A. 2 Samuel 19:16-23
- B. 19:20 - Shimei – *I have sinned*. How many times have we been in his shoes?
- C. Back to David. He could have been indifferent.
 - 1. Indifference is certainly not forgiveness. Indifference is RAGE controlled.
- D. I think he kept his vertical focus clear.
 - 1. When someone offends you – take it to God.
- E. David was very much aware of his own failure.

III. Some sound advice to help us forgive.

- A. We must cultivate a thick layer of skin.
 - 1. A buffer that takes jolts that come our way. See Js. 1:19
- B. Try to understand where the offender is coming from.
 - 1. Lk. 23:34 – putting ourselves in the other person's shoes often helps us objectify their reaction.
 - 2. In 1 statement we realize how our Lord viewed His enemies.
- C. Recall times when you have needed forgiveness & then apply the same emotion. No one is above being human.
 - 1. Mt. 7:12 – just as we would wish to be forgiven & treated graciously – so we must treat others!
- D. Verbalize your forgiveness. Say it – don't just think it.
 - 1. But yet our typical response is to do all the wrong things:
 - a) Silent treatment; resentment; grudge; indifferent; revenge.

IV. Putting on forgiveness is a must for the Christian.

- A. Rom. 12:14-21; Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:12-13; 1 Pet. 3:8-9; Mt. 6:14-15

Conclusion:

- A. Put yourself in David's shoes. Could you have forgiven Shimei?
- B. Do you need to take advantage of God's forgiveness?