2 Samuel Lesson 20 (2023)

**DAVID RETURNS TO JERUSALEM**

(2 Samuel 19:9-43)

**Open it:**

1. What, in your opinion, is the right balance between justice and mercy for criminals?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 9-15. What was the sentiment among the Israelites who had fled to their homes after the death of their leader, Absalom? (9-10) To what did David appeal to get the leaders to name him king again? (11-12) How did David’s overtures affect the people of Israel and their leaders? (13-15)
2. Read verses 16-23. What was the attitude of Shimei, who had cursed David on his way out of the city? (16-20) How did Abishai think Shimei should be treated now that David was victorious? (21) Why did David rebuke Abishai, and what promise did David make to Shimei? (22-23) How is mercy more conducive to building a consensus than vengeance?
3. Read verses 24-30. What was Mephibosheth’s explanation of why he hadn’t followed David when David retreated from the city? (24-27) How did David’s reaction to Mephibosheth indicate that he wasn’t sure whom to believe? (28-29)
4. Read verses 31-40. Why was David eager to reward Barzillai the Gileadite? (31-33) Why was Barzillai not eager to accept the king’s generosity for himself? (34-37) Whom did Barzillai ask David to reward in his stead? (38-40)
5. Read verses 41-43. How would you characterize the disputing between the people of Israel and Judah once the kingship was restored? Is it more challenging to deal with friends or enemies from a position of power?

**Apply it:**

1. What habits of thought and prayer can enable you to forgive a former enemy?