### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 16

1Well, after David had traveled a short distance from Ros, {Look!} Ziba (MephiBosheth’s servant) came to meet him with a pair of saddled burros, 200 loaves of bread, a bushel of raisins, 100 clusters of dried fruit, and a skin flask of wine.  
  
2So the king asked Ziba:  
  
 ‘What’s this for?’  
  
And Ziba replied:  
  
 ‘The animals are for the house of the king to ride, the bread and the dried fruit are for your servants to eat, and the wine is for those who get weak [as they travel] through the desert.’  
  
3Then the king asked:  
  
 ‘So, where’s your lord’s son?’  
  
And Ziba replied:  
  
 ‘{Look!} He’s sitting in JeruSalem; for he said:  
  
 ‘Today the kingdom of IsraEl will return to the house of my father.’  
  
4Then the king said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’m giving everything that MephiBosheth has, to you.’  
  
And as he bowed [before David], Ziba said:  
  
 ‘May I find favor in your eyes, O my lord the king.’  
  
5Well, when King David got to BaUrim, {Look!} a man who was related to the house of Saul (ShiMei, son of Gera) came there cursing 6and throwing stones at David and all his servants.  
  
Meanwhile, all the people (including the mighty ones) were walking on either side of the king. 7And ShiMei shouted (as he was cursing):  
  
 ‘Get out of here you murderer… You criminal!  
  
 8‘For Jehovah has finally brought all the blood of the house of Saul down on you for taking his place as the ruler, and He’s handed your kingdom over to your son AbSalom!  
  
 ‘So, now you’re getting some of your own badness for being a murderer!’  
  
9Well at that, AbiShai (son of ZeruJah) said to the king:  
  
 ‘Why does my lord the king put up with the cursing of this dead dog?  
  
 ‘Allow me to go over there and remove his head.’  
  
10But the king said to AbiShai:  
  
 ‘What does it matter to me and to you sons of ZeruJah?  
  
 ‘Leave him alone and let him curse.  
  
 ‘It was Jehovah who told him to curse David, so there’s no reason to ask him why he’s doing this.’  
  
11And then David said to AbiShai and his servants:  
  
 ‘The son who came from my own belly now wants to kill me; so, let the son of the BenJaminite curse, because Jehovah told him to do it!  
  
 12‘May Jehovah see my humiliation and provide good things for me in place of [this man’s] curses today.’  
  
13So, David and all his men just kept traveling along, as ShiMei ran alongside them next to the mountain cursing and throwing stones and dirt. 14And then finally, the king and all his people got tired and they stopped to rest.  
  
15Well, when AbSalom, AhiThophel, and all of his men of IsraEl arrived in JeruSalem, 16HuShai (David’s best friend) went to see to AbSalom and said:  
  
 ‘Long live the king!’  
  
17But AbSalom asked HuShai:  
  
 ‘Is this the way you’re treating your friend?  
  
 ‘Why didn’t you go along with your buddy?’  
  
18Then HuShai said:  
  
 ‘I’ll follow whomever Jehovah and His people (the men of IsraEl) have chosen… I’ll stick with him and stay with him!  
  
 19‘For, who will I be serving? I’ll be serving [David’s] son! So, as I served your father is how I’ll serve you now.’  
  
20Well at that, AbSalom turned to to AhiThophel and asked what he thought they should do next.  
  
21And AhiThophel told AbSalom:  
  
 ‘Your father left some concubines behind to guard his palace... Why don’t you go to bed with them, so that all IsraEl will hear how you’ve disgraced your father… For, that will strengthen your hand with the people!’  
  
22As a result, they set up a tent on the [palace] roof. Then AbSalom took his father’s concubines to bed with him in front of all IsraEl!  
  
23And from that point on, AbSalom sought AhiThophel’s council on how he should go about asking things of God. So as AhiThophel had once given council to David, he now gave council to AbSalom.