### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 19

1So thereafter, a message was sent to JoAb that the king was crying and mourning over AbSalom, 2rather than celebrating a victory.  
  
And as a result, his people went into mourning too, because they heard that the king was [so disturbed over the death of] his son… 3They just melted away into the city like men who were running from a battle.  
  
  
4Meanwhile, the king refused to show his face, for he kept crying and sobbing:  
  
 ‘O my son AbSalom! AbSalom! O my son!’  
  
5Well finally, JoAb went into the king’s house, and said to him:  
  
 ‘You’re disgracing all your servants that fought to save you today, as well as your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your concubines; 6for you’re showing that you love the one who hated you, and that you hate those who love you!  
  
 ‘You’re giving the impression that your leaders and your servants are nothing, and you’d prefer it if AbSalom were alive today while all the rest of us were dead!  
  
 7‘Now, get up and go outside, then talk to your servants and tell them how you really feel!  
  
 ‘For I swear by Jehovah that unless you go out there today, there won’t be a man standing with you tonight.  
  
 ‘Realize that the evil you’re doing here is worse that all the other evil things that have happened to you since you were young!’  
  
8Well at that, the king went out and sat down at the [city] gate.  
  
And then all the people started shouting:  
  
 ‘Look, the king is sitting at the gate.’  
  
So then, all his people gathered to him there.  
  
  
Now, [AbSalom’s men], the army of IsraEl, had all retreated to their tents, 9and these tribes of IsraEl had started discussing matters, saying:  
  
 ‘King David was the one who rescued us from our enemies, and he saved us from the hands of the Philistines... But then he had to flee the land and his kingdom, because he was running from AbSalom.  
  
 10‘However, now that AbSalom, whom we anointed to be [our king], has died in the battle, we should just quietly return to the king.’  
  
So thereafter, all IsraEl then returned to the king.  
  
  
11Then King David sent for ZaDok and AbiAthar (the Priests), and he said:  
  
 ‘Speak to the elders of Judah and ask them why they’re the last ones to welcome their king back.’  
  
Well, as a result, these words of the king were spread throughout all IsraEl.  
  
12For he’d said:  
  
 ‘My brothers,  
  
 ‘You are my own flesh and bones, so why are you the last ones to welcome the king back to his palace?  
  
 13‘Are you now going to turn to AmaSa and say, ‘You are our flesh and bones’? No!  
  
 ‘May God curse me and add more to it, if the one in charge of my armies is anyone except JoAb.’  
  
14Well, this turned the hearts of all the men of Judah, and they sent a message to the king saying:  
  
 ‘You and all your servants should return to us!’  
  
15So at that, the king traveled towards the JorDan, and all the men of Judah came to GilGal to welcome him and to accompany him across [the river].  
  
16ShiMei (son of Gera, son of the BenJaminite from BaUrim) hurried with his men of Judah to meet King David, 17and he brought along 1,000 men from BenJamin, as well as Ziba (the servant of the house of Saul) and his 15 sons and 20 servants.  
  
They all went straight to the king at the JorDan 18to officially welcome him as he crossed the ford (in order to satisfy his family, and to do the right thing in his eyes).  
  
Then ShiMei (son of Gera) fell to his face before the king at the JorDan and said:  
  
 19‘Please, my lord,  
  
 ‘Forgive the lawless way that your servant acted when the king left JeruSalem… Please put it out of your heart, 20for your servant knows that he’s sinned!  
  
 ‘Now look; I’ve come here before all IsraEl and the house of JoSeph today, to welcome back my lord the king.’  
  
21But AbiShai (son of ZeruJah) asked:  
  
 ‘Shouldn’t ShiMei be put to death for cursing the anointed of Jehovah?’  
  
22And David said:  
  
 ‘Why are you sons of ZeruJah always coming to me with plots?  
  
 ‘No man of IsraEl will be put to death today, for I still don’t know whether I’m even their ruler!’  
  
23Then the king said to ShiMei, ‘You won’t die,’ and he swore this in an oath to him.  
  
  
24Well thereafter, MephiBosheth (JoNathan’s son and Saul’s grandson) came to welcome the king... However, he hadn’t washed his feet, cut his nails, or trimmed his mustache, and his clothes hadn’t been washed since the day he left to ask the king for peace.  
  
25So when he came from JeruSalem to greet him, the king asked:  
  
 ‘Why didn’t you come along with me, MephiBosheth?’  
  
26And MephiBosheth answered:  
  
 ‘O my lord, O king,  
  
 ‘It was because my servant had misled me.  
  
 ‘When I told him to saddle my burro and help me mount it, because your servant is lame, to go with the king, 27he wouldn’t do it!  
  
 ‘However, my lord the king is as a messenger of God; so, do whatever’s good in your eyes!  
  
 28‘But, back when there was no one else left of the my father’s house, other than those who deserved death from my lord the king, you allowed your servant to eat at your table!  
  
 ‘So, what reason would I have to speak out against the king?’  
  
29And the king said to him:  
  
 ‘Why are you still talking?  
  
 ‘From now on, you must give your field to Ziba!’  
  
30And MephiBosheth said:  
  
 ‘Yes, may he take everything, now that my lord the king is returning in peace to his palace.’  
  
  
31Then BarZilLai (the GileAdite) came to the king at the JorDan from RogelLim, to accompany him on his way back home. 32BarZilLai was very old (80 years old), but he’d fed the king while he was living in ManaIm, because he was very wealthy.  
  
33So the king said to BarZilLai:  
  
 ‘Now, come to JeruSalem with me, and I’ll care for you in your old age.’  
  
34But BarZilLai said to the king:  
  
 ‘How many years do you think I have left, so that I should travel with the king to JeruSalem?  
  
 35‘Since I’m 80 years old today, how could I really appreciate what you’re doing? Can I still enjoy the taste of the food and drink that you’ll offer me?  
  
 ‘Or can I still enjoy the voices of men and women singing?  
  
 ‘Why should I burden my lord the king?  
  
 36‘So, your servant will just travel with the king for a short way to the JorDan… What greater reward or payment can you give me? 37Let your servant stay here to die in my own city and to be buried with my father and mother!  
  
 ‘But look; your servant’s son CamaAm will cross [the JorDan] with my lord the king… Please do for him whatever you find good in your eyes.’  
  
38And the king said:  
  
 ‘Then let CamaAm cross over with me, and I’ll do what’s good in my eyes for him… I’ll do whatever you ask of me.’  
  
39Well, as all the people were crossing the JorDan, the king also prepared to cross... Then he kissed BarZilLai and blest him, and he returned to his people.  
  
  
40And as the king was crossing over towards GilGal, CamaAm crossed [the river] with him, along with all the people of Judah and half of the people of IsraEl.  
  
41But then men from IsraEl approached the king and asked him:  
  
 ‘Why did you allow our brothers of Judah to steal you and help the king, his household, and his army to cross the JorDan?’  
  
42And the men from Judah shouted:  
  
 ‘Because the king is our close relative!  
  
 ‘Why are you so irritated about this?  
  
 ‘Has the king given us any more food, or gifts, or brought us a tribute?’  
  
43Then at that, the men of IsraEl replied:  
  
 ‘Since we have 10 [tribes] that serve the king, and since we’re the firstborn, how do you have [a greater claim] to David?  
  
 ‘We even came here [to welcome him back] before you did!  
  
 ‘So, why are you insulting us by not allowing us to be the first to escort the king?’  
  
However, the men of Judah just shouted the men of IsraEl down.