

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 62
II Samuel 16

INTRODUCTION: No king ever sat on a throne of Israel who was as great as David. William Law said that David was the greatest saint who ever lived. Only twice did Heaven ever open and did the voice of God speak pleasure with one of His own. One such event took place concerning Jesus when He was baptized, and the other time it concerned David. David wrote most of the Psalms about which Isaac Williams said, "The Psalms are Jesus' prayer book." It is on David's throne where our Lord shall reign for 1000 years when He returns to earth. David is the only man in the Bible called, "a man after God's own heart." There is no doubt but that one of the reasons for David's greatness and for God's favor to him was because David did not seek vengeance or revenge. He had truly learned to bless those who cursed him, to pray for those who despitely used him, to love those who hated him and to do good to those who did evil to him. This is a lesson that most of us never learn and which all of us should learn. Let us notice the story in this sad but beautiful chapter.

- I. IT WAS THE DARKEST HOUR OF DAVID'S LIFE. His own son, Absalom, had rebelled against him and had gathered an army to fight against David's forces in an attempt to unseat David from the throne. Absalom was seeking to replace his own father and to go to war in order to do so. Hence, it was a sad day in David's life. He had left the palace, his beloved city and his people and had fled in order to avoid a confrontation with his own son. Yet in spite of this fact, David did not seek retaliation against Absalom. He was not that type. It was not a part of his makeup.

This was not all of David's burden. His friend of a lifetime and faithful counselor had forsaken him. Ahithophel had been with David through the years, but he turned on David and joined the forces of Absalom. Mephibosheth had forsaken him. Mephibosheth, at the age of five, had been crippled for life. When Mephibosheth was about 13, David brought him from poverty and from being an invalid to come and be as one of David's sons. David had set him on the throne. He had adopted him into his family and made him an heir of all his wealth; yet Mephibosheth turned on David. In spite of this, David still did not retaliate.

II. SHIMEI PERSECUTED DAVID AS HE JOURNEYED.

1. He cursed him in the darkest hour of his life. II Samuel 16:5c.
2. He threw stones at David. II Samuel 16:6a.
3. He called him a "bloody man." II Samuel 16:7b.
4. He accused David of being Satan. II Samuel 16:7c.
5. He voiced pleasure because Absalom was on the throne. II Samuel 16:8c.
6. He accused David of mischief. II Samuel 16:8d.
7. He cast dust on David. II Samuel 16:13d.

III. DAVID RESTRAINED HIMSELF FROM RETALIATION.

1. David could have destroyed Shimei. II Samuel 16:9. Also notice verse 16. David's mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.
2. David took it as being from God. II Samuel 16:11d. Notice the words, "for the LORD hath bidden him."
3. David accepted it that God would give him good for the evil. II Samuel 16:12.

- IV. DAVID AT OTHER TIMES ACTED IN THE SAME MANNER. I Samuel 23:19 - 24:22. One time when Saul was trying to kill David, David had fled from him and was hiding in a cave at En-gedi and Ziph. While David was asleep in the cave, Saul slept at the door of the cave. David and his men woke up the next morning and came out only to find Saul asleep at their feet. Here was David's chance. Saul had tried to kill him and at this time was seeking to kill him. David drew his sword. His men suggested that he seek revenge. In I Samuel 24:10c, David said, "I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed." Saul replied in I Samuel 24:17, "Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil."

David had demonstrated the same thing toward his son, Absalom, in that he did not seek revenge against him.

David demonstrated the same spirit toward Joab. Joab was his nephew. He was also David's assistant. Joab always held David's sin before him. Joab was a critical man, and for 30 years, he was a thorn in David's side. Yet David did not seek revenge.

V. JESUS TAUGHT THIS SAME TRUTH.

1. Matthew 5:11, 12. Notice the words in verse 12a, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad." This means, "Jump up and down, click your heels together and shout." This is the way to respond to persecution, criticism and the attacks from the enemy.
2. Matthew 5:25a. Notice the words, "Agree with thine adversary quickly." In other words, we are not to fight back.
3. Matthew 5:44. Ah, here is the great verse! "...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Here is the attitude we are to have toward those who set themselves up as our enemies and who would do us hurt.

CONCLUSION: (Teacher, draw up some potential situations that would be faced by people the age of your pupils. Discuss the type things that people can do to hurt them, and then show the pupils how to respond.)