



What Shall We Find

2 Samuel 16:5-8 (NIV)

[5] As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His

name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. [6] He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. [7] As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel! [8] The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!"

Introduction:

- David has now come to a critical point of this difficult journey. The decisions he makes now will determine the outcome. And yet, he feels farther away from God than ever. Once again we are going to parallel our study with Psalm 22 that David wrote during the rebellion of Absalom.
- Psalms 22:1-2 (NIV) — [1] My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? [2] O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.
- But God is never beyond our simple cry for help.

- Psalms 22:4-5 (NIV) — [4] In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. [5] They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.
- So, if we are going to walk this difficult journey, then let us be certain that we find what He has brought us here for.

1. We Must Find God

1. 2 Samuel 16:9-10 (NIV) — [9] Then Abishai son of Zeruah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head.” [10] But the king said, “What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruah?...”
2. Abishai is the nephew of Joab, the leader of King David's soldiers. Abishai is one of the elite warriors among David's men who is often found at David's side. Once, David had determined to go into the camp of Saul's army at night. It was one of those missions that you may not return alive, so only volunteers are asked to go. When asked, Abishai immediately stepped forward. He was a man of great courage and loyalty. Yet, in all the bitterness and betrayal, young Abishai has lost himself. He has forgotten who he is. David is saying to his young friend, "Who are you? I don't even know you anymore."
3. Even David is in danger of becoming lost in all the rhetoric. This man was shouting, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel! The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul." After a while, it can change the way we see ourselves — the way we think, and the way act.
4. Psalms 22:6-7 (NIV) — [6] But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. [7] All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:
5. In the culture of division and hate that we find ourselves in today, we can easily be swallowed up. These are dangerous times and we cannot forget who we are. But to find ourselves, we must first find God.

6. Psalms 22:9-10 (NIV) — [9] Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. [10] From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.
7. Don't forget who you are. Don't allow the culture around you to define you. That's where David stands apart from the rest. Even as a shepherd boy caring for his father's sheep, he would not allow the circumstances or individuals around him to determine who he was. Whether Goliath or the army of Saul, he found his identity with God.
8. Psalms 22:25 (NIV) — [25] From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly...

2. We Must Find His Word

1. 2 Samuel 16:10 (NIV) — [10] But the king said, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"
2. So, here's this man cursing David. Verse six says that all David's troops and special guard were on his left and right side. These were not the kind of men to be trifled with. David still had the power and resources about him to control his own destiny, but he realized that God is in control now and we must follow Him. It's in just such a time that we need to hear God speak His purpose and direction in our lives.
3. Psalm 7 is another of David's Psalms that are a reflection of his heart during the rebellion of his son.
4. Psalms 7:9 (NIV) — [9] O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure.
5. God is the one "who searches minds and hearts" and we need to hear from Him. And He speaks to us most often from His Word.

6. Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) — [12] For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
7. In a culture of division and hatred that surrounds us today, we need to clear away all the noise and clutter from our hearts until only His Word remains.
8. Psalms 119:9-11 (NIV) — [9] How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. [10] I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. [11] I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

3. We Must Find Forgiveness

1. 2 Samuel 16:11 (NIV) — [11] David then said to Abishai and all his officials, “My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to.
2. Others around him were saying fight back, but for what gain? Nobody wins this kind of fight. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to forgive.
3. Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) — [14] For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. [15] But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
4. David is not a man without fault, but somehow in all the division, hatred, and betrayal, David has made a stand. It's not a stand of defiance or stand of defense. David has chosen instead to take a stand of forgiveness.
5. 2 Samuel 16:12 (NIV) — [12] It may be that the LORD will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today.”

6. There is the key. Your response today determines your outcome tomorrow. The only way to win in this culture of division and hatred is with forgiveness.
7. A great example is Joseph, Who was torn from his family because of jealousy, hatred, and violence. Years later he stood before the same brothers who once sought his ruin.
8. Genesis 50:19-20 (NIV) — [19] But Joseph said to them, “Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? [20] You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.
9. What needs to be saved on your situation, in what you're going through right now — your marriage, your family, perhaps yourself?

Conclusion:

- 2 Samuel 16:13 (NVI) — [13] So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt.
- Has it ever seemed like everyone is piling on?
- Psalms 22:14-15 (NVI) — [14] I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. [15] My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.
- They are drained physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- 2 Samuel 16:14 (NVI) — [14] The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.
- Only God can do that in our lives.
- Psalms 23:1-3 (NVI) — [1] The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, [3] he restores my soul...