II Samuel 19

Review…

- **II Samuel 18 – Civil war in Israel…**
  - David divided his troops into three groups to go out to war against Absalom…
    - But David was not allowed by his troops to leave the safety of the city…
    - If ½ of their army died – they could keep fighting – but if David died the war was lost!
    - David gave one command to his generals – do not harm Absalom
  - The servants of David were victorious in the battle…
    - While Absalom was try to run away his head got caught in a braches of a tree…
    - When Joab found out he went and plunged three spears into his heart…
    - In spite of David – Joab knew the only way to stop the war was kill Absalom!
  - Messengers were sent to tell the good news – the battle was won…
    - But when they arrived – all King David wanted to know was how was Absalom…
    - When he found out he was dead – he went up to his room and wept bitterly

King of Israel again… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Stuck in the past… vs. 1-8** Read: II Samuel 19:1-8
  - 1st – Word quickly spread that David was mourning for the loss of Absalom… vs. 1-4
    - The army should have been rejoicing in victory – coming back to the city like heroes…
      - There should have been music / parades / celebration and feasts!
      - But David knew that Absalom had rebelled as a consequence for his sins…
      - And he could not get over his guilt at the death of his son…
      - Rather than greeting the army – David just kept crying – Absalom! My son Absalom!
      - So the army crept back into the city – ashamed as if they had lost he battle…
    - When people hold onto the mistakes of their past – it sucks them down…
      - One time we were going to the Lumangog for Bible Study after a hard rain…
      - The road was so muddy my shoes got stuck in the mud – could not pull them out…
      - The more I struggled – the deeper I sank – I needed someone to pull me out!
      - Too often we get stuck in our past sins – and they act like mud – pulling us down…
      - The more we struggle – focus on the sin – the quicker we sink…
      - The only hope is to stop looking down – and instead look up!

- **Psalms 69:2** - "Deeper and deeper I sink into the mire; I cannot find a foothold to stand on… Pull me out [Lord]… do not let me sink any deeper!"

- Our past does not hold the key to being all God wants us to be…
  - And if we are focused on our past - then we are looking forward…
  - The answers we need in life are not in our mistakes – they are in the Lord…
  - We need to forget what is behind us – and press on toward Jesus!
  - **Philippians 3:13** - "One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to... Christ Jesus."

- 2nd – Joab went to meet the King… vs. 5-8
  - The army had saved his life that day / and the lives of his other children and wives!
    - Yet David was acting in such a way that the men felt like they had done wrong…
    - David made it look like he loved those who hated him…
    - And yet hated those who loved and were willing to fight for him!
    - Would David have been happier if Absalom lived – and he and ALL his men died!
  - Joab told the King to go and congratulate his troops…
    - If he did not – if he kept moping – he would end up loosing them all…
    - If the King were not willing to lead his people – they would walk away…
    - Seeing the wisdom in Joab's words – David got up and went to greet the troops!
  - Sometimes we need help to get the right perspective…
    - I am a pretty tall guy – that can be handy when we are in a crowd…
    - Jen will not be able to see where we are going – the crowd blocks her view…
    - But I can see over their heads – and clearly be able to see the way!
    - If we see a friend who is stuck in sin / unable to break free of their past…
    - Or if we get so caught up in our circumstances – we loose perspective…
    - God is a lot bigger than we are – and He can see things MUCH more clearly…
    - Turns out all need is someone with a 'better perspective' to help us out!

- **2ND – CHOOSING A KING… VS. 9-14** READ: II SAMUEL 19:9-14
  - 1st – There was a lot of discussion in Israel as to who should be King… vs. 9-10
    - David had made a lot of mistakes – there were a lot of scandals during his reign…
      - Beginning with Bathsheba / the rape of Tamar by Amnon / the murder of Amnon…
      - Now the rebellion of Absalom – and civil war in Israel…
      - If there had been TV in those days – the scandals would have been the TOP story!
    - The nation as a whole had chosen Absalom – but he was now dead…
      - And David had done a great deal of good for the nation – defeated the Philistines…
      - So they decided to 'vote for David' – bring him back from exile…
      - Democracy is a great form of government – but it does have one fatal flaw…
      - It depends on sinners to make the best choice of who should lead them…
      - And very often people do not make the best choices…
      - They vote based on a P100 bribe – rather than who is best for the nation!

- That is why we do not put our hope in a political system – but only in the Lord!

- 2nd – The only tribe to hold out – was Judah… vs. 11
  - The capitol of Judah – Hebron – had been the seat of Absalom's rebellion…
    - As the heart of the rebellion – they were slow to accept its failure…
    - So David sent the priests – Zadok and Abiathar – to talk to them…
    - They were his own kin – David had ruled first from the city of Hebron…
  - So why should they be the last tribe in Israel to embrace David as King again!
    - **Mark 6:4** – "A prophet has honor except among his relatives, and in his house."
    - The hardest people to reach – are your family and friends…
    - When we share Jesus with them – they are quick to remind us of our mistakes…
    - Do not give up on your family and friends – they might give you a hard time…
    - But in due time – as they see Jesus in you – they might just ask what happened!

- 3rd - Rather than punish Judah for their rebellion – David offered them a deal… vs. 12-14
  - He would make Amasa – Absalom's general – his general instead of Joab…
    - The same tactic David had used to unite Israel after the death of Ishbosheth…
    - When he offered to replace Joab with his general Abner – **II Samuel 3**
    - Amasa quickly convinced the leaders of Judah to accept David as King again!
  - When people hurt us – our initial reaction is to usually lash out in anger…
    - France lost 1.5 million men in 'World War I' – and wanted to punish Germany…
    - So they imposed harsh rules on the Germans – leading to famine and disease…
    - As a result of the hard times Germany in desperation embraced Hitler…
    - So in the end France's punishment of Germany – led them to World War II!
    - **Proverbs 15:1**–"A soft answer turns away wrath, a harsh word stirs up anger."
    - If we react with our emotions when others hurt us – we only do more damage…
    - We escalate the problem rather than solving it – anger causes more anger…
    - Rather than react – seek to restore and heal the relationship...
    - In the end you will make someone who would be your enemy – your friend!

- **3RD – RETURNING TO ISRAEL… VS. 15-43** READ: II SAMUEL 19:15-20
  - 1st – With all of the nation behind him – David set out for Israel… vs. 15-23
    - When he arrived at the Jordan River – a large crowd had gathered to greet him…
      - The very first person to meet him was Shimei from Benjamin…
      - The same Shimei who cursed / threw stones at David when he left Jerusalem…
      - Now he brought with him 1000 men from Benjamin…
      - The meet David at the 'border of Israel' – help him and his family cross the river…
    - Shimei fell down before David – and begged for forgiveness…
      - He confessed his 'great sin' – that is why he wanted to be the first to greet David…
      - Shimei knew that with the return of David to the throne - his life was forfeit…
      - His only hope was to reach David – and plea for his life before David took it away!
      - The plan worked - Abishai wanted to kill him – but David chose to spare his life…

- It was a day for celebration – he was the King of Israel again!

- When we make a mistake – the worst thing we can do it run from it…
  - I used to work with dangerous chemicals – spraying large properties for insects…
  - One time I made a mistake and spilled the chemicals into a drain…
  - It had the potential to kill all the fish / animals in a nearby lake…
  - I could have not told anyone – but if it was found out – fired / even prison!
  - So I immediately told my supervisor – and by the Grace of God – nothing happened
  - The best solution to sin – is to run immediately to Jesus…
  - The longer we try and hide what we have done – the greater the consequences!

- 2nd - The problem of Ziba and Mephibosheth… vs. 24-30 READ: II SAMUEL 19:24-30

  - The 2nd person to greet David was Mephibosheth (*with Ziba right behind him*)…
    - Mephibosheth had not washed / shaved / or changed his clothes since David left!
    - David wanted to know why Mephibosheth had not come with him…
    - He explained that Ziba had deceived him when David fled Jerusalem…
    - Mephibosheth sent Ziba to saddle his donkey – because he was lame…
    - Instead Ziba had left and told David he refused to come – slandering Mephibosheth!

  - Mephibosheth put himself at the mercy of David…
    - He owed everything to the King – he had already spared his life (*grandson of Saul*)
    - Whatever the King decided to do – Mephibosheth would gratefully accept…
    - David seeing he was too quick to judge – giving all the land to Ziba…
    - Reinstates his first order – that the men would share the land – **II Samuel 9**
    - Mephibosheth did not care about the Land – he was just glad David was back!

  - Decision that are made to quickly – are often bad decisions…
    - Whether it is who you choose to marry / or trying to get more money…
    - **Proverbs 28:22** – "A greedy person tries to get rich quick, it only leads to poverty."
    - We are prone to making quick decisions – doing what we think is best…
    - The problem is we do not always have all the information / jump to conclusions…
    - It is ALWAYS best to ask God first – then CAREFULLY make our plans after!

- 3rd – Last of all was Barzillai of Gilead… vs. 32-39 READ: II SAMUEL 19:32-37

  - Barzillai was an 80-year-old man from the city of Mahinaim…
    - He was the one who had taken David and his men in when they were on the run…
    - He had provided them with food – and a place to stay when no one else would…
    - Barzillai could have kept his riches – but instead he used them for the King!
    - So David wanted him to come to Jerusalem – so he could replay the favor!

  - Barzillai was too old to make the long journey…
    - He could not longer enjoy the taste of fancy food and drinks / hear the music…
    - He just wanted to go back to his home – and be buried with his family…
    - But he would send his son Kimham instead – let David bless him in his place!

- We pass on to our children – the benefits / or curses of the life we live…
  - If we choose to live our lives for this world – if we live for money…
  - They we have nothing to pass on to our children – nothing that lasts…
  - **Ecclesiastes 7:12 –** "Money can get you almost anything, but it is important to know that only wisdom can save your life."
  - But if we live for Jesus – then we pass on to them the blessing of knowing the King…
  - And they will also receive all the riches and benefits of knowing the Lord!

- 4th – One problem after another… vs. 40-43
  - All the people of Judah and ½ the people of Israel escorted David into Israel…
    - But the men of Israel began to complain – Judah got to help more than they did…
    - The men of Judah justified their actions – David was from their tribe…
    - But the men of Israel countered – David was the King of ALL of Israel…
    - And therefore one tribe should not be allowed to help more than 10 others!
    - Besides that Judah was the VERY LAST tribe to accept David as King again!
  - Poor David – he had not even been King for a day – and the kids were fighting again…
    - Have you ever had your kids fight over who got the last cup of rice…
    - Only to solve the problem (*split it*) – to have them fight over who does the dishes!
    - God never promised us that life would be easy – there is always another challenge…
    - But those challenges are what keep us looking to the Lord…
    - If life we to easy – we would not have any reason to hold onto Jesus!