

SECOND DAY: Read 2 Samuel 3:28-39

1. After Saul's death Abner, the *commander of Saul's army*, made Ishbosheth king of Israel. However, Abner quarreled with Ishbosheth and because of this, he pledged to secure David on the throne of Israel. Before David was able to take the throne Abner was murdered by Joab, the commander of David's army. According to 2 Samuel 3:28-29, what was David's response to the death of Abner?
 - a. Read David's words in Psalm 7:10 and 59:9. How might this perspective have contributed to his attitude toward Joab's violent act?
2. Describe the scene presented in 2 Samuel 3:31-34.
3. What did David do when *all the people came to persuade* him to eat? 2 Samuel 3:35
 - a. How did the people react to this? 2 Samuel 3:36-37
 - (1) Why do you think it was important that the people understood *the king's intent*?
 - b. What is your impression of David in this situation?
4. How did David describe Abner? 2 Samuel 3:38
 - a. Share your thoughts concerning David's estimation of Abner.
5. What did David say *the LORD* would do? 2 Samuel 3:39
 - a. How did David's view of vengeance differ from Joab's? See Psalm 94:1.
6. Read Romans 12:17-21. What instruction is given concerning *vengeance*?
 - a. In what way do you see David following this instruction?
 - b. Take a moment to give God any area where you are tempted to take personal vengeance.

THIRD DAY: Read 2 Samuel 4:1-12

1. Answer the following questions from 2 Samuel 4:1-8:
 - a. What happened when *Saul's son Ishbosheth heard that Abner had died in Hebron?* 2 Samuel 4:1
 - b. Who were Baanah and Rechab? 2 Samuel 4:2
 - c. Briefly recount the actions of Baanah and Rechab. 2 Samuel 4:5-8
 - (1) Share your impression of these two men.
2. From 2 Samuel 4:9-11 summarize David's response to Baanah and Rechab.
 - a. Print David's declaration from 2 Samuel 4:9b.
 - (1) Recall from your previous studies a way God delivered David from *adversity*.
 - (2) According to Psalm 31:7 what blessing resulted from David's *adversity*?
 - (3) Share a time God delivered you from *adversity* and what He taught you.
 - b. Link David's rebuke in 2 Samuel 4:10-11 with how he dealt with Saul's murderer in 2 Samuel 1:14-16. What do you see?
3. What happened next according to 2 Samuel 4:12?
4. Correlate David's actions with Saul's request in 1 Samuel 24:20-22. How does this explain what David did?
 - a. What does this convey about David's heart?
5. Use the passages below to comment on why David sought his deliverance from God, not men:
 - a. Psalm 17:2
 - b. Psalm 18:47-50
 - c. Psalm 32:7
 - (1) Why do you think it is better to look to God for deliverance rather than men?

FOURTH DAY: Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13, 19:24-30

1. According to 2 Samuel 9:1a, what did David desire to do?
 - a. For whose *sake* did he desire to do this? 2 Samuel 9:1b
 - (1) Link this to Jonathan's covenant with David in 1 Samuel 20:14-15. What do you see?
2. Summarize David's conversation with Ziba from 2 Samuel 9:2-4.
 - a. Using 2 Samuel 4:4 describe how Jonathan's son became *lame in his feet*.
3. What did David say to Mephibosheth when he *brought him out*? 2 Samuel 9:5-7
4. How did Mephibosheth respond? 2 Samuel 9:6b, 8
 - a. Why do you think David's kindness sparked such a reaction?
5. Describe David's kindness from 2 Samuel 9:9-13.
6. Mephibosheth is mentioned again in 2 Samuel 19:24-30 following Absalom's revolt and the deception of his servant, Ziba. Use this passage to comment on Mephibosheth's heart toward David.
7. Even as David lavished unmerited favor on Mephibosheth, God has lavished His unmerited favor on us. Remark on this favor from the following verses:
 - a. Romans 8:32
 - b. Ephesians 2:4-7
 - c. 1 John 3:1a
8. How does God's mercy toward you parallel David's mercy to Mephibosheth?
 - d. In what way does God's mercy motivate you? Ephesians 4:32

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Samuel 19:18b-23, 31-39

1. During Absalom's revolt, a man named Shimei cursed David. Read 2 Samuel 16:7-8, 13 and describe Shimei's behavior.
2. Shimei was apologetic when the kingdom was returned to David. Use 2 Samuel 19:18b-20 to characterize Shimei's actions.
 - a. What was Abishai's response to Shimei? 2 Samuel 19:21
 - b. By contrast, how did David respond? 2 Samuel 19:22-23
 - (1) What did David *know*? 2 Samuel 19:22b
 - (2) How does this confidence explain his ability to be merciful toward Shimei?
 - (3) How will knowing who we are in Christ affect our attitude toward others? See Matthew 5:44-45.
3. From 2 Samuel 19:31-32 describe Barzillai the Gileadite.
 - a. According to 2 Samuel 17:27-29, how did he seek to minister to David?
4. What was David's invitation to Barzillai? 2 Samuel 19:33
 - a. What does this demonstrate about David's heart?
5. Sum up Barzillai's reply in 2 Samuel 19:34-37.
6. How did David respond to Barzillai's *request*? 2 Samuel 19:38-39
7. David made a choice to respond in mercy and kindness to both friend and foe. Use Psalm 18:25 to comment on God's influence in David's choices.
 - a. How is David's behavior an example for you?

