

2 Samuel 16 - “Back to the Wilderness!”

February 12, 2023—Pastor Lee Talley

Introduction:

(1 Sam. 13:14; James 1:2-4; John 16:33)

[#1] God allows wilderness experiences that we might **GROW** closer to Jesus and learn to **TRUST** Him more.

Vs. 1-4 Ziba Accuses Mephibosheth ...

(Prov. 18:16-17)

[#2] When hurt by a fellow believer, with the Lord’s help, seek **RESTORATION** for the fellow believer and the relationship.

(Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1-2; Matt. 18:21-22)

Vs. 5-14 Shimei Accuses David ...

(2 Sam. 15:25-26)

[#3] In wilderness times in our lives, are we willing to **TRUST** our God like David?

Vs. 15-23 The Advice of Ahithophel

(2 Sam. 12:11-12; Rom. 8:28-30)

[#4] David’s Steps to Reconciliation:

#1 Repentance (Turn from sin and turn to God)

#2 Forgiveness (Jesus’s forgiveness restores fellowship with God)

#3 Restoration (That David might again become “a man after God’s own heart!”)

(Heb. 12:6-11)

[#5] And, like David, we are also in the **PROCESS** of being restored, becoming more and more like Jesus.

(Heb. 10:14)

[#6] David’s God was bigger than any circumstance ... How **BIG** is your God?

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[#4] David’s Steps to Reconciliation:

#1 _____ (Turn from sin and turn to God)

#2 _____ (Jesus’ forgiveness restores fellowship with God)

#3 _____ (That David might again become “a man after God’s own heart!”)

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[#5] And, like David, we are also in the _____ of being restored; becoming more and more like Jesus.

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creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. [8] But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. [9] With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. [10] Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."

How are you most tempted to sin with your words? (gossip, cursing, angry outbursts, complaining, etc)

Can you think of any lies Christians might believe regarding "sins of the tongue"?

What are two or three things you can do this week to, with God's help, resist the temptation to sin with your words?

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

- 8) What do you most need to apply or remember from this week's message or homework?
- 9) In what way(s) can you better surrender to God's will and/or discipline in your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of February 12, 2023

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) This week we talked about God bringing David back into the wilderness. Describe a time in your life when you were in the "wilderness" (time of trial/distress/hardship).

What did you do *well* in that time? What would you have done differently?

What did God teach you or accomplish through that situation or trial?

REVIEW

- 2) In your own words, what happened in 2 Samuel 16?

- 3) What stood out to you from this week's message? What questions did you have?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) What stands out to you from the following passage?

Hebrews 12:1-3 NLT - "[1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. [2] We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who

initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. [3] Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

How does this passage encourage or challenge you?

Give an example of how you might put verse 3 into practice.

5) As you continue reading below, write down any questions or highlights you have.

Hebrews 12:4-11 NLT - *[4] After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. [5] And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. [6] For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." [7] As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? [8] If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. [9] Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? [10] For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. [11] No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening--it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."*

We talked this Sunday about God using David's return to the wilderness as a form of discipline. Do you think God was punishing David for his sin with Bathsheba, or do you think God was trying to make David more holy? Or something else? Why or why not?

Can you think of any other examples in Scripture where God allowed suffering as a form of correction?

What are some ways God disciplines Christians today?

Why do you think God disciplines us?

If you could send yourself an encouraging message for a future time when you're being disciplined (or simply dealing with trials), what would it be?

6) Shimei spoke many hurtful words to David. What are some things that help protect you from the hurtful words of others?

7) What stands out to you from the passage below?
James 3:5-10 - *"[5] Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! [6] And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. [7] For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and*