



## **“REASONS TO REJOICE”**

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,  
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

### ***I and II SAMUEL Lesson 22***

*In our last lesson, Absalom was killed and the battle between Israel and David was over. Chapter 18 ends with David grieving for the loss of his son. Although grieving is a natural thing to do, David seemed to lose perspective on a few things. David’s grief almost cost him the kingdom. Let’s read the next two chapters and see what happens.*

#### **First Day**

- 1. Read II Samuel 19:1-7. What’s happening here? Explain the problem Joab has with David. How was David insulting the people?*
- 2. Why should this have been a day of celebration for all of Israel?*
- 3. According to Joab, what would happen if he didn’t stop his mourning and commend the people for their victory?*

*It was time for David to put aside his personal grief and lead the people. Joab felt that the people who had proved their loyalty to David at personal cost were surely more deserving of his love than the son who had*

*planned his own father's downfall. David's grief was an affront to their faithfulness. It was time to thank the troops and get back to business. How easy it is to get so consumed with our own feelings and forget everyone else around us.*

- 4. Are you in the middle of a "situation" right now? Have you forgotten the feelings and the needs of those around you? Step back and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can minister to someone else who might be affected by the same situation.*
  
- 5. Let's read II Samuel 19:8-16. Write the facts you find. Can you explain what's happening?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6. Did David receive the rebuke from Joab? How can you tell?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7. What were the people of Israel discussing in verses 9-10?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8. What was David waiting for before he went back to Jerusalem to take back the throne?*

*Instead of going right back to Jerusalem, David was waiting for an invitation. Most of Israel was ready to receive him back, but Judah hadn't made that decision. (Remember that Judah was the tribe David was from, but it had also been foremost in Absalom's rebellion.) They were a little hesitant to jump on the David-bandwagon. David sent word to Judah to find*

*out why they hadn't asked for him to be recalled, like the rest of the tribes. Perhaps to prove that he would forgive their past rebellion, David asks Amasa to replace Joab. (vs 12-13) It's important to note that Amasa had been Absalom's commander. This, and David's personal appeal to them, persuaded Judah, so they sent David an invitation and hurried to meet him and usher him back to Jerusalem. (vs 15)*

*9. What might be some other reasons that David replaced Joab with Amasa?*

*10. Why was it so important for David to use Godly wisdom in how he handled this whole situation?*

*11. Do you see any other application in this story for your own life?*

*See you tomorrow! Unfortunately, even though Absalom is dead, things don't just fall back into place. Again we see how sin affects so many others beside ourselves.*

***Memory Verse of the Week:*** *"A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" Proverbs 15:23*

### **Second Day**

***Practice your verse. Are you speaking words in due season?***

*Judah came down to Gilgal, to escort the king across the Jordan. Let's see who else shows up.*

***1. Read II Samuel 19:16-39. Write the facts.***

2. *Name all the “old friends” that showed up to meet the king.*
  
3. *What attitude did Shimei show up with? If you don’t remember who he is, read II Samuel 16:5-13.*
  
4. *How did Abishai react to him?*
  
5. *Did David receive his apology? What did David promise him?*
  
6. *Did David keep that promise? Read David’s counsel to his son Solomon before his death in 1 Kings 2:1-9.*
  
7. *How are people today like Shimei? (Are you?) Why do some people change loyalties so easily?*

*Although it appears that David forgave Shimei, he actually held on to it until his deathbed. It may have been more of a political move on David’s part. This was not the day to be killing people. Unfortunately, many of us hold on to issues until our deathbed, allowing bitterness to steal away part of our hearts. Forgive now; don’t wait any longer.*

8. *In what state did Mephibosheth show up? How does he explain his appearance?*
  
9. *How is his story differ from Ziba’s? (II Samuel 16:1-4)*

**10.** *Does David seem to believe him?*

*The text never really says who was telling the truth, but it is often assumed that Mephibosheth is being honest because his heart is revealed in verse 30, where he doesn't seem to want anything except for David to be back on his throne. It doesn't appear that he had any reason to follow Absalom.*

**11.** *Why does David want Barzillai to come to Jerusalem with him? How does he want to repay him for his kindness? Review II Samuel 17:27.*

**12.** *Why doesn't Barzillai want to go? (Do you blame him?) Whom does he want him to take to Jerusalem in his place?*

*Jeremiah 41:17 tells us that David kept that promise to Barzillai. He gave Chimham land near Bethlehem, and his family lived there many years.*

**13.** *We always remember those who have ministered to us in our time of need. Is there someone who came to your side during your time of need that you've never thanked? Let them know that you haven't forgotten their act of kindness.*

**14.** *Why do you think the Holy Spirit thought it necessary to put the story of this older gentlemen in His Word? Why is it significant? How does it speak to your heart?*

*I'm not sure why the Holy Spirit brings out this story of Barzillai, but I'm glad He did. It reminds me that it doesn't matter how old a person is; they can be used by the Lord. All Barzillai did was bring supplies to David when he needed help. We can always do that, can't we? He was an encouragement to David, and we are never too old for that!*

### **Third Day**

***Are you memorizing your verse?***

*Just when it seems like things are going well for David, the tribal jealousy surfaces again. Oh, no ....*

- 1. Read II Samuel 19:40-43. What happened? Who shows up, and why are they angry?*

*The people of Israel who had been loyal to David got jealous of Judah's relationship with him. (Sounds like kids!) Judah had reminded them that they were of the same tribe as the king. They seemed to be offended that they hadn't been consulted in regard to escorting David back to Jerusalem and felt like they were unfairly treated. After all, the rest of the tribes were supposed to have the same voice in these matters as Judah. This might have been handled peacefully, until someone made a bad move.*

- 2. Read II Samuel 20:1-2. What happened?*

*This Benjamite blew the trumpet, probably to call the troops together for rebellion. Sheba's war cry was a rebuttal to Judah's claim that they were of the same tribe as David. They basically said, "Very well, if we don't have any part in David like you say, or any inheritance, let's get out of here and let **JUDAH** have him!" (Can you see their hands on their hips?)*

3. *“Tribal jealousy” is similar to “church jealousy” today. What do I mean by that? How, and why, do churches compete with each other?*

4. *Read verse 3. What eventually happened to the ten women who were left behind to watch the house?*

*Blaikie describes the women this way: “The only way of disposing of them was to put them in a ward, to shut them up in confinement, to wear out the rest of their lives in a dreary, joyless widowhood. All joy and brightness was thus taken out of their lives, and personal freedom was denied them. They were doomed, for no fault of theirs, to the weary lot of captives, cursing the day, probably, when their beauty had brought them to the palace, and wishing that they could exchange lots with the humblest of their sisters that breathed the air of freedom.” **Once again we are reminded that our sin never affects only ourselves.***

5. *Read II Samuel 20:4-13. What’s happening?*

6. *Why do you think Amasa took so long to get the troops together?*

7. *When David got tired of waiting, whom did he send?*

8. *Where did they find Amasa? What did Joab do to him?*

9. *How did the people react?*

10. *What are some reasons that Joab may have killed Amasa?*

*Gibeon is about six miles north of Jerusalem, which was Benjamite territory. Some believe that Amasa was not supposed to be there. We don't know if the men of Judah didn't want to follow him, or he was wavering in his loyalty, which is the reason that Joab seems to give to rationalize what he did to Amasa. (vs 11) The "great stone" was probably a landmark that was used as an altar. After the man moved Amasa's body, the people continued their pursuit of Sheba, following Joab. These people were fickle. (Do they just follow whoever is alive?) It seems like, once again, Joab goes unpunished, just like when he killed Abner (II Samuel 3:26-27). Justice will catch up with him, we read later in 1 Kings 2:28-35.*

*Joab is an interesting character. He was a fearless fighter and brilliant planner. He was confident, willing to confront the king when necessary. He brought David and Absalom back together, but he also had helped David carry out his plan to kill Uriah. David conquered Jerusalem under his leadership, but Joab murdered Abner, Amasa, and Absalom. Later he plotted with Adonijah against Solomon, which led to his execution. We never see Joab acknowledging God's will, or seeking His ways. Joab was a fierce man of war, but not a man of God.*

- 11. Why is it important to have men of God in leadership, not just successful businessmen, or smart financial planners?*
  
- 12. The people's loyalty changed often. Is your loyalty toward God alone? When He doesn't do things the way you'd like, does your loyalty change?*
  
- 13. People are usually loyal to themselves. What does that statement mean?*



*See you tomorrow! Let's make sure that we stay true to our King. He deserves all honor, glory, and power! We pledge allegiance to the Lamb!*

### **Fourth Day**

***What's your verse?***

1. *Read II Samuel 20:14-26. From where did Joab gather his men?*
2. *In your own words, briefly describe what happens in the city of Abel.*

*Abel and BethMaachah were very close to each other, so the names are connected in verse 15. Abel was one of the northernmost towns of Israel, a few miles to the west of Dan. The "mound" referred to in verse 15 was intended to act as a ramp, allowing the army to attack the upper section of the wall. Joab and his men were attacking the city, and it probably would have been destroyed, unless someone stepped in.*

3. *Who spoke up? Why did this take courage?*
4. *What were the reasons she gave Joab for saving their city?*
5. *What was her attitude?*
6. *How did they work the situation out? (Yuck!)*

*It's thought that the woman quotes a popular saying in verse 18, boasting of the city's longstanding reputation for wisdom and good counsel. The word "mother" is used here in the sense of a "mother-city."*

7. *The woman used wise words to stop the attack. What do the following verses say about words:*
  - A. *Proverbs 25:11*
  - B. *Isaiah 50:4*
  - C. *Proverbs 12:25*
  - D. *Psalm 19:14*
  - E. *Matthew 12:36*
  
8. *Why is there so much power in a word?*
  
9. *Have you been speaking words that make people glad and encourage people in due season? Take "word" inventory of the last few days. Have they been more encouraging, or discouraging? Have you said anything:*
  - A. *Discouraging?*
  - B. *Harsh?*
  - C. *Unjust?*
  - D. *Demeaning?*
  - E. *Edifying?*
  - F. *Complimentary?*
  - G. *Kind and sweet?*
  - H. *Rude?*
  
10. *Think of someone lately who has spoken a word to you "in due season," or at a perfect time. Can you give the specifics? Did you thank God for that?*

11. *If you are married, have you used your words wisely this week?  
How about as a mom?*

*After Sheba's head is delivered to Joab, they blow the trumpet and return home to Jerusalem. Verse 23 mentions Benaiah, who later replaces Joab as commander of Israel's army (1 Kings 2:35). The rest is a list of officials and leaders in David's company.*

*Take some time to reflect on the power of words. Pray and ask God to flavor your words with grace, that they might edify all those who hear them. And who knows? Maybe God will use you to save a city some day!*

### **Fifth Day**

***Write out your verse from memory. I pray you're doing it!***

*Today we'll look at a few more points of application from the chapters we studied this week. Let's start with our favorite topic – words.*

1. *What should we be speaking about, according to Psalm 119:172? Also read Psalm 71:15. How much time do you spend doing this?*
  
2. *What should we do with our mouth? What should we do to it sometimes? Read Psalm 39:1.*
  
3. *What is the most important thing you should do with your mouth? Read Romans 10:8-10.*

*Let's think about Barzillai from chapter 19 for a minute. He is an interesting man. He was thought to be rich and influential. William Blaikie makes these comments on this man: "His generosity was equal to his wealth. His thought seemed to be only on the needs of the king. His loyalty was not less thorough than his generosity. When he heard the king's troubles, he didn't hesitate to help him. He must have been a man of attractive personal qualities. The king liked him and wished that he would come with him to Jerusalem and promised to sustain him at court. Barzillai was not even dazzled by the highest offers of the king, because he felt the proposal was unsuitable for his years."*

4. *If you are an older woman, are you practicing the Titus 2 principle? Are you teaching the young ladies to love their husbands and their children? Are you showing them how to be homemakers? (We are all older than someone!) Let's not dishonor our grey hair! Let's make them count!*
  
5. *Barzillai seemed to be happy to do the smallest thing to encourage David. Are you willing to do whatever God has called you to do, no matter how small?*
  
6. *Is your generosity equal to your wealth? (What does that mean?)*
  
7. *Although she wasn't rich, her generosity was equal to her wealth. Who was she? Read Mark 12:38-44. How does that story speak to you?*

*I pray that you will see many "**Reasons to Rejoice**" in your life this week!  
God bless you as you serve Him!*