

David, Ziba, and Shimei - 2 Samuel 16:1-14

Topics: Accusation, Ambition, Correction, Criticism, Discipline, Expectations, Gifts, God's Will, Hatred, Hope, Humiliation, Humility, Insults, Interpretation, Judging Others, Judgment, Justice, Opposition, Patience, Persecution, Perspective, Punishment, Rebellion, Revenge, Rewards, Serving, Swearing, Toleration, Wisdom, Words

Open It

1. In what circumstances can it be difficult to tell your friends from your enemies?
2. As a child of God, who is likely to rejoice if you stumble?
- * 3. How does it feel to be in a crowd that includes a heckler?

Explore It

4. Who met David with provisions as he was fleeing Jerusalem? (16:1-2)
5. What difference of opinion did Ziba report between himself and Mephibosheth? (16:3)
6. What was David's response to Ziba's actions? (16:4)
- * 7. What did Shimei son of Gera do when David's entourage passed his way? (16:5-6)
8. What accusation and curse did Shimei level against David? (16:7-8)
- * 9. Why was Shimei so bitter against David? (16:8)
10. What did Abishai propose to do to Shimei? (16:9)
- * 11. How did David's view of the situation differ radically from Abishai's? (16:10)
12. What order did David give concerning Shimei, and what was his reason for doing so? (16:11)
13. For what outcome did David hope instead of the immediate death of the heckler? (16:12)
14. What did Shimei continue to do as David and his men journeyed on? (16:13)
15. What did David do when he arrived at his destination? (16:14)

Get It

16. Why is it not wise to take one person's version of events at face value without hearing the other side?
- * 17. What character traits did David exhibit through his reaction to Shimei?
18. In what ways did David think Shimei's behavior was "understandable"?
- * 19. What can a person learn from his or her critics?
20. In what ways is it appropriate to distance yourself from "enemies"?
21. Would you prefer to vindicate yourself or to be vindicated by God in due time? Why?
22. How does our belief in God enable us to respond charitably toward our enemies?

Apply It

23. How do you need to distance yourself from people whose attitudes and methods conflict with your own?
- * 24. To what critic in your life would you like to learn to respond with silence and faith in God?