

David's Mercy

2 Samuel 19:8-44

by Don Falkos

copyright 2017 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

David started back to Jerusalem. Thousands of people went to Gilgal to meet him and escort him across the Jordan River. The first man to greet the king and welcome him back was the same man who had thrown stones at him when he was leaving. He pleaded for David's forgiveness, and Abishai threatened him with death. But David said, "No one will be executed today. Today I am once again the king of Israel!" Then David told the man, "Your life is spared."

Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, came to David. He hadn't cared for his feet, trimmed his beard, or washed his clothes since the day the king left Jerusalem. "My lord the king, I wanted to come with you. But my servant Ziba betrayed me and slandered me by telling you I refused to come. Now do with me as you wish."

David replied. "You and Ziba will divide your land equally between you."

"Give it all to him," said Mephibosheth, "I am content with your safe return."

Then David was greeted by a very old, very wealthy man who had provided food for the king as he fled. David said, "Come live in Jerusalem and I'll take care of you."

The man replied, "I am too old – eighty years old. I can no longer enjoy anything. I can't taste what I eat. My hearing is gone. I would only be a burden. All I ask is that you allow me to cross the Jordan River with you."

The king crossed over to Gilgal, escorted by all the troops of Judah and half the troops of Israel. The men of Israel complained that Judah had had too important of a role in the king's return. "Why weren't we granted the same honor?" An argument ensued, and harsh words were spoken by both the men of Judah and the men of Israel.