

Class 3 – Shimei: Forgiveness

Keys to Good Bible Study:

1. Context
2. Echoes & Cross References
3. Repeated words
4. Put yourself in the Story
5. Lessons! (Every study must have a practical application)

1. Shimei cursing 2 Sam. 16

v. 5-8, 13 – Shimei curses David. (Note his lineage)

v. 9 – Abishai wants to take off his head!! (Abishai was RIGHT!! ... **Ex. 22:28**)

v. 10-12 – David sees the ‘bigger picture’ – he sees God’s hand in all the circumstances!

2. Shimei seeks forgiveness 2 Sam. 19

v. 18-20 – repents, pleads for forgiveness! (It all sounds VERY sincere!)

v. 21 – Abishai extends NO MERCY! (They were returning victorious yet Abishai was feeling vengeful)

A timeless principle: The merciful obtain mercy...AND vice versa! **Mark 11:25-26**

v. 22-23 – David extends mercy...again

Abishai’s reaction allows David to see what he may have been like without the tempering influence of God’s Word! (cp. The Nabal incident with Abigail) **Abishai’s hardness helps to soften David!**

Q: Does David’s forgiveness mean that Shimei is ‘right with God’? NO – as we will see later...

Lesson for us: Be Thankful when you get the opportunity to practice forgiveness!

God says “I will not remember your sins!” (**Isa. 43:25; Jer. 31:34**) – why then do we hold grudges and not let go of others sins?? Note: Shimei asked David to not remember his sin!

Does David’s forgiveness mean he thinks Shimei was right or justified in his actions towards David? NO. Extending forgiveness does not mean you were wrong and the other person was right. It means you value doing the right thing more than being seen to be right!

3. The result of David’s ‘mercy’

Haman of Agag – Saul’s failure, lack of obedience Est. 3:1

Mordecai of Shimei!! – because of David’s mercy Est. 2:5

4. Shimei before the Judge – his ultimate destiny **1 Kings 2**

v. 8-9 – David’s last words??!! Shimei must have proved himself unworthy of mercy – Had he taken David’s love for granted? Had he not learned to practice it in his own life? David turned the matter over to the Judge! (Solomon typifies Christ on the Throne!)

v. 36-44 – Solomon’s plan/test for Shimei – how was he going to behave?

- Shimei fails miserably! He does not obey the king. He is self-seeking and vengeful!

Shimei could not forgive although he had been forgiven!

5. Conclusion: Matt. 18:23-34 – the parable of the unbelievably forgiving King!

10000 talents = sin against God worthy of death committed by US (Shimei)

100 pence = sins in this life committed by other (Shimei’s servants)

The question is: Have we learned the lesson ourselves?

Do we forgive and forget transgressions of our fellow servants towards us, or do we grudgingly and reluctantly say ‘I forgive you’ because we know we should??!!

Are we David or Abishai?? Do we ever act like Shimei??

Read **Matthew 18:35**