

The Return of the King: Are You Ready? – Part 3

2 Samuel 19

Introduction:

1. King David's armies had defeated the armies of Absalom and quenched the rebellion. David had been forced to flee into the wilderness, but now it was time for the King to return to the throne of his kingdom. vs. 15
2. In so many ways, David is a picture of the King of kings – Jesus Christ. Revelation 19:16
 - Due to earthly rebellion, David was sent into temporary exile, but ultimately returned in triumph.
 - Christ came to this earth as the King, the Messiah, but was rejected. He went into temporary exile into the heavens, but will one day return to this earth in triumph.
3. Like David, Christ will return to Jerusalem, sit on the throne of His glory, and dwell in the fullness of His glory and kingdom. Matthew 24:27, 29-30, 25:31; Revelation 1:7
4. Seven years before His glorious and public return to earth, Christ will make a secret return, not to earth, but in the heavens. We call this event the Rapture. We are caught up to meet Christ in the air.
 - At the Rapture, He is returning as the Head of His body (the church).
 - At the Revelation, He is returning as King over all the earth.
5. Just like King David returned, King Jesus is returning. Are you ready for His return? Are you prepared? Our knowledge that the King could return at any moment should cause us to prepare ourselves.
6. As we look at several people here in our text, and their responses, I believe we can make practical application to our lives. How can we prepare to meet the King, Jesus Christ?

First, possess an attitude of humility and repentance.

1. As David returned, the first person that ran out to meet him was Shimei. Do you remember him? He was the one that had previously cursed at David and threw stones at him. 16:13
2. Shimei now comes and humbles himself in repentance before the King (vs. 18-20). He admitted that he had sinned and asked the king for mercy. Because of his repentance, he was saved and delivered from the wrath of the King. vs. 23
3. You may say, "But Shimei deserved to die." Yes he did. But because of his repentance, he was spared from death and given life.
4. Did you know that we are all in the same boat that Shimei was in? We deserve death because we have offended **the** King, Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23, 3:19
 - There is not a one of us who hasn't sinned against God and offended His righteous and holy character. But, there is good news!
5. We too can be saved from the wrath of the King. How? The King **Himself** died **for** us and took the penalty that we deserve. Romans 5:8-9

6. God simply desires that we humble ourselves, and place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. At the very moment we trust Christ, our sins are all imputed to Christ, and His righteousness is imputed to us.
7. As Shimei stood before the King, do you notice what Abishai said? What a picture of Satan. Satan looks at me and says to God, “Look at all he has done. He deserves death.” God says, “Yes he **does** deserve death, but the blood of my Son has been applied. He is forgiven!” Colossians 1:14, 2:13

Second, live in anticipation of His coming.

1. There is another man that came out to meet the King. Do you remember Mephibosheth? He was the crippled man that David showed mercy to. 2 Samuel 9:7
2. Mephibosheth had a servant named Ziba. When David had to flee Jerusalem, Ziba went out to meet David, lied about Mephibosheth, and incriminated him to David. He did this for his own selfish gain. 16:1-4
3. But Mephibosheth was loyal to the King and lived in anticipation of His return. In fact, when he met David, he hadn’t shaved, changed his clothes, or taken a bath since David fled (vs. 24 – ripe!). This was an outward demonstration of his longing and desire for David to return.
 - While I don’t think you need to imitate what he did (we would all appreciate it), this is the **heart** we should have towards our King, Jesus Christ.
 - Mephibosheth’s attitude was, “Let Ziba have everything. I don’t care. My King has returned and that’s worth everything to me!” vs. 30
4. We should be looking for and longing to see our Savior (2 Timothy 4:8)! Just as it affected Mephibosheth’s daily life, our longing and anticipation for Christ’s return should affect our daily lives. 1 John 3:2-3
5. We get so wrapped up in the things of the earth that we can easily lose sight of the fact that it could all end in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. When we do this, it can cause us to become consumed with what God is doing for us materially.
6. But this isn’t what it is all about. Mephibosheth knew this (vs. 28). He was so thankful for the deliverance that David had provided, and simply longed to be **with** David. This should be our heart. Colossians 3:2, 4

Third, remember, your faithfulness will be rewarded.

1. There was another interesting person that met David when he returned. This was an elderly man by the name of Barzillai. This was the man that brought David and his men a load of food and supplies when they were in the wilderness. vs. 32; cf. 17:27-29
2. Barzillai was well-off materially. But, he also had large heart to do good with his blessings. This is to be the attitude of every child of God. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
 - What good are material blessings if we don’t use them to help others and help the cause of Christ? Ephesians 4:28

3. Barzillai is an example of a man who was a faithful steward and continued to be faithful until his King returned. When King David returned, he remembered Barzillai's faithfulness, and rewarded him. He invited him to come to Jerusalem and live with him.
 - Notice Barzillai's humble response (vs. 36-40). Chimham was most likely Barzillai's son.
4. Even on his deathbed, David remembered Barzillai's faithfulness and told Solomon to show kindness to his sons. 1 Kings 2:7
5. Did you know our King, Jesus Christ, also notices and rewards faithfulness? Matthew 25:41; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Hebrews 6:10
6. Maybe you have been discouraged lately. Maybe you have felt like quitting and throwing in the towel. Don't do it! Remember, your King could return at any moment.
7. We sing an old song, "It will be worth it all when we see Jesus." This is so true.
8. When Christ returns, may He find us faithful. It is not easy to be faithful. But, when we are tempted to quit, we must remember Christ. Hebrews 12:2-3