

1 & 2 Samuel Series

Lesson #209

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Dean Bible Ministries

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THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S
TESTS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

2 SAMUEL 16:1–11

Seven Scenes in the Rebellion of Absalom

- 1. Absalom begins the revolt, 2 Sam. 15:1–12**
- 2. David hears and flees, 2 Sam. 15:13–16:14**
- 3. Absalom enters Jerusalem,
2 Sam. 16:15–17:14**
- 4. Hushai informs David, 2 Sam. 17:15–23**
- 5. Absalom moves against David,
2 Sam. 17:24–26**
- 6. David moves across the Jordan and is
resupplied, 2 Sam. 17:27–18:5**
- 7. The battle is fought, Absalom is killed,
2 Sam. 18:6–33**

- I. Absalom flees**
- II. Absalom returns**
- III. David flees**
- IV. David returns**

- 1. Absalom deceives the people by acting like their friend; false compassion and sympathy.**
- 2. Absalom falsely accuses David of not caring and being out of touch.**
- 3. Absalom takes on the trappings of power and authority, acting like a king.**
- 4. Absalom claims if he were king, they would have it so much better.**

- 5. He sent out spies throughout the land.**
- 6. Conspired to be proclaimed king.**
- 7. Deceived 200 men in David's administration.**
- 8. Beguiled Ahithophel to give him the appearance of legitimacy.**

1 Cor. 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

The first test:

1. The Ittai test (people testing):

David shows wise leadership by not jumping at the chance to have Ittai's warriors join him. 2 Sam. 15:18–22

The second test:

2. Spiritual priority test [test of faith (doctrine)]. 2 Sam. 15:24–29

David doesn't compromise the spiritual life of the nation to serve his purposes.

David shows his trust in God rather than manipulating the circumstances.

David shows wise leadership by setting up a communication network.

2 Sam. 15:29, “Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

2 Sam. 15:30, “So David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot. And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up.”

The third test:

- 3. Betrayal by a friend (tests of grace, humility, faith-rest drill). 2 Sam. 15:30–31**

The test of betrayal by a valued friend and counselor—Ahithophel.

2 Sam. 15:31, “Then someone told David, saying, ‘Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.’ And David said, ‘O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!’ ”

4. The Hushai test, 2 Sam. 15:32–37

A test related to pride or arrogance.

This is always related to grace orientation.

Loving your neighbor as yourself.

5. The test of Ziba, 2 Sam. 16:1–4

**A test of wisdom, similar to the one with
Ittai.**

2 Sam. 16:1, “When David was a little past the top of the mountain, there was Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, who met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, one hundred clusters of raisins, one hundred summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

2 Sam. 16:2, “And the king said to Ziba, ‘What do you mean to do with these?’ So Ziba said, ‘The donkeys are for the king’s household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who are faint in the wilderness to drink.’ ”

2 Sam. 16:3, “Then the king said, ‘And where is your master’s son?’ And Ziba said to the king, ‘Indeed he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, “Today the house of Israel will restore the kingdom of my father to me.” ’ ”

**2 Sam. 16:4, “So the king said to Ziba,
‘Here, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is
yours.’ And Ziba said, ‘I humbly bow
before you, that I may find favor in your
sight, my lord, O king!’ ”**

6. The test of Shimei, 2 Sam. 16:5–13

This is a test of humility again.

2 Sam. 16:5, “Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came.

2 Sam. 16:6, “And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.”

2 Sam. 16:7, “Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: ‘Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue!’ ” ~NKJV

2 Sam. 16:7, “Shimei said as he cursed: ‘Get out, get out, you worthless murderer!’ ” ~HCSB

2 Sam. 16:7, “Shimei said as he cursed, ‘Leave! leave! You murderer, you worthless man [man of Belial]!’ ” ~RD

2 Sam. 16:8, “The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!”

The Human Viewpoint Pagan Solution

2 Sam. 16:9, “Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, ‘Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!’ ”

The Divine Viewpoint Solution of Humility

2 Sam. 16:10, “But the king said, ‘What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD has said to him, “Curse David.” Who then shall say, “Why have you done so?”’ ”

2 Sam. 16:11, “And David said to Abishai and all his servants, ‘See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him.’ ”

The Divine Viewpoint Solution of Humility

2 Sam. 16:12, “It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day.”