

Introduction:

Perhaps you have never paid attention to Shimei in the Bible. He is not a particularly good person but he is like a lot of people we know.

I) **2 Samuel 16** Absalom Rebels and David Flees Jerusalem

A) Shimei curses David.

2 Samuel 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.*

1. Notice his ancestry – of the house of Saul, a Benjamite.

2 Samuel 16:7 *Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! 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!"*

2. He seems to think David's problems is due to how he treated King Saul.
3. Saul had died battling the Philistines, **1 Samuel 31**.
4. Some believe this in connection with an event recorded in **2 Samuel 21.1**
 - a. Saul had killed some Gibeonites, which is unrecorded and the Gibeonites come to David for justice.

2 Samuel 21:1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."

- b. This resulted in the death of some of Saul's lineage.

2 Samuel 21:5 Then they answered the king, "As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel, **6** "let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD chose." And the king said, "I will give them."

2 Samuel 21:7 But the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

2 Samuel 21:9 and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the LORD. So they fell, all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

- 4. We know Absalom's rebellion against David was not connected to King Saul.
- 5. But Shimei curses David.

2 Samuel 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.*
7 *Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue!"*

6. Abishai volunteers to go and kill this speck of a man.

2 Samuel 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!"*

- a. He regarded Shimei as a nuisance, whose life was nothing.
- b. Have you ever come across someone like a Shimei? A loud mouth person who doesn't understand the situation?

7. But David shows him mercy.

2 Samuel 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. **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."*

- a. David simply attributes this to the will of God.
- b. God had shown David mercy by not having him put to death in the case of Bathsheba.
- c. Perhaps God will show David mercy when David shows mercy.

2 Samuel 16:13 *And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust.*

B) Shimei ask for mercy

1. Absalom is killed and David returns to Jerusalem. He is once again in charge and Shimei recognizes his situation.

2 Samuel 19:18 *Then a ferryboat went across to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. Now Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan. 19 Then he said to the king, "Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember what wrong your servant did on the day that my lord the king left Jerusalem, that the king should take it to heart.*

2. When Shimei cursed David the first time he received grace, without asking for it.
3. Now he comes asking for mercy.

2 Samuel 19:20 *"For I, your servant, know that I have sinned. Therefore here I am, the first to come today of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king."*

4. Once again Abishai wants to kill him.

2 Samuel 19:21 *But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed?"*

5. But once again David grants Shimei mercy and withholds

punishment.

2 Samuel 19:22 *And David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"* **23** *Therefore the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king swore to him.*

6. However punishment had only been delayed.

1 Kings 2:8 *"And see, you have with you Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.'* **9** *"Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man and know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood."*

C) Shimei's undoing

1. Solomon's conditional pardon. Shimei could live safely and securely in Jerusalem

1 Kings 2:36 *Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere.*

2. Leave his place of refuge and Shimei would die.

1 Kings 2:37 *"For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely*

die; your blood shall be on your own head."

3. There is no doubt Shimei understood those terms.

1 Kings 2:38 *And Shimei said to the king, "The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do." So Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.*

4. But then Shimei leaves his place of safety for two run away slaves.

1 Kings 2:39 *Now it happened at the end of three years, that two slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish the son of Maachah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, "Look, your slaves are in Gath!"* **40** *So Shimei arose, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to seek his slaves. And Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath.*

5. Shimei's life is taken due to his leaving Jerusalem.

1 Kings 2:41 *And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had come back.* **42** *Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.'"* **43** *"Why then have you not kept the oath of the LORD and the commandment that I gave you?"* **44** *The king said moreover to Shimei, "You know, as your heart acknowledges, all the wickedness that you did to my father David; therefore the LORD will return your wickedness on your own head."* **45** *"But King Solomon*

shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever." 46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

II) Our Application

A) Some people are rebellious and obstinate. **Romans 3.23**

Ecclesiastes 7:20 *For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.*

1. They do not consider the authority of God.
2. They may hurl insults at God and dare Him to harm them.
3. If God would strike them down it would simply be what they deserve.

Romans 1:32 *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

4. The very fact we are allowed time to live and learn God's word is a measure of God's grace.

Romans 2:4 *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

B) Or we might be like Shimei who recognizes the need for grace and forgiveness.

1. We might obey the Gospel and promise to live according to God's word.

2. As long as we are faithful till death we will be in a place of eternal safety.

Romans 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24* *being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

3. Our place of safety is in Christ.

John 10:27 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

C) Some can be like Shimei and leave their place of safety.

1. Were two slaves worth Shimei's life? Yet that is what Shimei was willing to give up.
2. People will leave Christ for things and lose their soul. It won't be worth it but they will still do it.

Conclusion:

We all receive a portion of God's grace each day. God sent His Son to die for sinners. We come to God when we accept His condition of grace. We must remain in Christ to receive the home in heaven.