

Fatherly Advice

(Summer Blockbusters, Part 3)

¹ When David's time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: ²"I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, ³and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn. ⁴Then the LORD will establish his word that he spoke concerning me: 'If your heirs take heed to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.'

⁵ "Moreover you know also what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner son of Ner, and Amasa son of Jether, whom he murdered, retaliating in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist, and on the sandals on his feet. ⁶Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. ⁷Deal loyally, however, with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table; for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from your brother Absalom. ⁸There is also with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a terrible curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim; but when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' ⁹Therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man; you will know what you ought to do to him, and you must bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol."

Questions to Consider

1. In your family, who was more likely to give you advice: dad, mom, or another relative? Can you remember any specific advice now?
2. When have you had a problem at work you needed advice about? Who did you turn to? How helpful was their advice?
3. David began by telling Solomon to "keep God's charge." What did he mean? How would Solomon do that? What would be the result?
4. Read how Shimei cursed David (2 Samuel 16: 5-14) and how David responded then (2 Sam 19: 18-23). Why did David spare his life?
5. Read what happened to Shimei (1 Kings 1: 8, 2: 36-46). Why did Solomon finally execute Shimei? Why didn't he execute him earlier?
6. David told Solomon to remember his friends (the sons of Barzillai) as well as his enemies (Joab, Shimei). Which is more important?
7. David advised Solomon to execute Joab and Shimei, but he also said Solomon was wise (vv. 6, 9). What difference does that make?
8. David knew that Solomon was wise. If he knew you the same way, which of *your* qualities would he name when he gave you advice?
9. David gives *commands* concerning God and Barzillai's sons but only *advice* about Joab and Shimei. If he knew your situation like he knew how to be a king, what advice would give you about how to do it?