

AND NOW, FOR THE **REST** OF THE STORY...! 2 SAM. 9

Fool me once – shame on you
Fool me twice- shame on me
Fool me regularly – shame on . . .?

Thoughts:

- No human is infallible
- No one is omniscient
- All of us are capable of mistakes → even big mistakes
- A decision is only as good as one's information, judgment, & biases
- Snap judgments &/ the paralysis of analysis are both unhelpful
- No one has a gift
- Yet all must make decisions

Job 12:1 And Job answered and said, **Job 12:2** No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you. **Job 12:3** But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you: yea, who knoweth not such things as these?

Job 13:1 Lo, mine eye hath seen all this, mine ear hath heard and understood it. **Job 13:2** What ye know, the same do I know also: I am not inferior unto you. **Job 13:3** Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God. **Job 13:4** But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value.

Job 15:11 Are the consolations of God small with thee...?

Job 16:1 Then Job answered and said, **Job 16:2** I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

I. David was wrong at the 1st meeting!

2 Samuel 9:2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he. **2 Samuel 9:3** And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

2 Samuel 9:4 And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

2 Samuel 9:10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

When you first read this thing are...OK? Then you notice some clues:

- Many years had transpired

2 Samuel 4:4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 9:12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha...

- Who was in charge of the property of Saul? Ziba

- Where was Mephibosheth living? Why?

2 Samuel 9:4 And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

2 Samuel 9:5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.

- What did David do to Ziba?

2 Samuel 9:9 Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

2 Samuel 9:10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

- Was Ziba important before this? He had 15 sons / 20 servants in charge of Saul's house.

II. David was **more wrong** at the 2nd meeting!

Hungry

Angry

Lonely

Tired

2 Samuel 16:1 And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, **Ziba** the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

2 Samuel 16:2 And the king said unto Ziba, **What meanest thou by these?** And Ziba said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink. **2 Samuel 16:3** And the king said, And **where is thy master's son?** And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: **for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.** **2 Samuel 16:4** Then said the king to Ziba, **Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth.** And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

➤ **David did ask questions → good questions**

➤ **David was not in a good place to make decisions**

➤ **David was in great need &/ in Ziba's debt**

➤ **David also had very limited information**

➤ **David was really unable to do due diligence**

Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Proverbs 18:17 He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in **the multitude** of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in **the multitude** of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 20:18 Every purpose is established **by counsel**: and with good advice make war.

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in **multitude** of counsellors there is safety.

III. David was **most wrong** at the 3rd meeting!

2 Samuel 19:24 And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, **and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace.** **2 Samuel 19:25** And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, **Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?** **2 Samuel 19:26** **And he answered,** My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame. **2 Samuel 19:27** And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: **do therefore what is good in thine eyes.** **2 Samuel 19:28** **For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?** **2 Samuel 19:29** And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. **2 Samuel 19:30** **And Mephibosheth said** unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

What do we find here?

➤ **Visual evidence was conclusive!**

This is the author's description

Why does this have weight? – you can't fake it!

➤ **Verbal explanation was compelling!**

He didn't go

Neither did Ziba

He wasn't able to go

Ziba was a good man at playing it safe

➤ **Humble disposition was corroborative!**

Remember: we are looking for converging lines of evidence