

**Mick's slot**

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin.

Their leader, Lucifer Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along.

Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

**NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT!**

(However, you can spot them if you bin lookin and bin goin.)

**Introduction**

What (personality trait) comes into your mind when you hear the following biblical names:

- Thomas (Doubt),
- Jezebel (adultery),
- Judas (betrayal),
- Shimei (criticism)

King Saul was the ruler of Israel. But he was disobedient to God and God anointed David to eventually replace him.

Saul wasn't dead and he hadn't abdicated his throne. He had no intention of giving up his throne to anybody.

Once Saul realized that David was God's next choice for the throne, he sought on several occasions to have David killed.

By contrast... David had several opportunities to kill Saul – but refused to do so. He repeatedly told his friends and relatives he would not lay his hand on the “Lord's Anointed”. And he never did. David remained a fugitive and an outcast from the land of his birth... until the day Saul died on the field of battle.

David then became king of all Israel, just as God had intended.

**Absalom's rebellion**

Then about 30 years into his reign, David is betrayed by his own son Absalom who attempted a coup and David was forced to flee Jerusalem.

Because David had sinned with Bathsheba, Nathan predicted a chain of events when he told David that the sword would never depart from his house, The first son born to Bathsheba will die, and in the future, one of David's sons Amnon will rape one of David's daughters (2 Sam 13:1-14); two sons, Absalom and Adonijah will die through their acts of rebellion; and Absalom will lie with David's wives on a rooftop where all can see (2 Sam 16:20).

David is once again on the run, fleeing from his son, Absalom, who had won the favour of the people of Israel, and had taken the throne by stealth and guile.

David's life had hit rock bottom. His affair with Bathsheba had set off this whole chain of tragic events: his infant son died, his family was in turmoil, and he had lost his throne to his rebellious son Absalom. Stripped of his security, dignity and political power, David had reached the lowest level of his life as he trudged wearily along the dusty road no longer a young man capable of handling life on the run. With each step, he feels the weight of his grief bearing down on him, crushing him with regret and sorrow.

Into this scene of personal tragedy enters Shimei

As he was leaving the city, Shimei came out to ridicule and taunt vulnerable David making his life even more miserable as he flees from the armies of Absalom

Shimei is a relative of Saul. Shimei was angry and bitter. He has probably nursed a grudge against David for more than twenty years, ever since the royal dynasty shifted to David's house. His vision blurred by hatred, Shimei sees David's calamity as God's judgment for his "sin" against Saul and as a chance to take some sweet revenge. He blames him for killing Saul, his sons, and for taking his throne, Perhaps Shimei even thought he had a greater claim to the throne than David did. All that and bringing the country into disrepute over the Bathsheba affair.

You could say he's extremely negative toward David  
He's very vocal as he curses David.

Shimei's charges are untrue, however. David didn't murder Saul, neither did he steal Saul's throne. And God didn't give Absalom the throne—he stole it!

Then he throws dirt and stones at the deposed and disgraced King of Israel.

Apparently he was not within the reach of David and his fellow travellers, nor could he hurt them by casting his stones at them; but he did it to show his contempt, and perhaps to intimate David deserved to be stoned for adultery.

Consider the impudence and madness of Shimei, to cast stones at David when is so well guarded. Abishai, one of David's right-hand men, rises hotly to his master's defence, and forgiveness is the farthest thing from his mind.

David has every right to have Shimei killed

This is even suggested to him – maybe you've heard something similar...

Are you going take that?

Let me handle this for you

Stand up for yourself

Don't let him walk all over you

Fight back!

Make him pay! Why don't you sue him?

Let them get what they deserve.

Showing mercy is a sign of weakness.

David has a choice – he can take his rightful revenge on this man, or he can forgive him

Through the hailstorm of lies, one statement penetrates David's conscience with a measure of truth: David is a man of bloodshed. He killed Uriah. Thinking that Shimei's curses may be part of God's discipline for that heinous deed, David restrains Abishai who wants to cut off his head. Perhaps the Lord had sent Shimei to humble David even further (16:5-12).

If Absalom his son was against him, then why should they bother with such a minor player such as Shimei?

### **Time passed by**

During a battle between the armies of David and Absalom, Absalom was killed and David was restored to the throne.

When the king is triumphantly returning to Jerusalem Shimei shows up with a thousand men from his tribe (vv. 16-18), this time, instead of throwing rocks, he is begging for forgiveness.

Shimei comes eager to demonstrate his repentance to David as he seeks forgiveness. He brings 1,000 Benjamites with him, who also express their submission to David as their king.

He confesses his sin and folly and pleads for David's forgiveness.

Shimei's blasphemies against the Lord's anointed were a capital offense, a fact that Abishai zealously points out:

"Should not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" (v. 21b)

To David, however, showing mercy is a sign of strength and the cornerstone of his restored government. David, pleased to be restored to the throne, could be merciful. This is a day of reconciliation.

There would be no executions, even though Shimei deserves to die because he has cursed a ruler of his people (Exodus 22:28). David assures him, "You shall not die" (verse 23).

But this oath was not binding upon his successor, especially if he should he commit a new crime.

How could David show such restraint?

First, his focus was on the Lord—he had left Shimei's offense in God's hands (16:12).

Second, he was aware of his own failure. Once he had stood in Shimei's shoes, crying out, "I have sinned," and God had forgiven him for crimes much worse than hurling insults at a king. How could he not forgive Shimei?

People who have been forgiven make good forgivers'

The grace David received as a result of his repentance he showed to a supposedly "repentant" Shimei'

David was known as the man after God's own heart

Just before he dies David gives some advice to Solomon. Of all the people in his life he warns him about two, Joab and Shimei.

**Remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD: 'I will not put you to death by the sword.' But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his grey head down to the grave in blood.**

1 Kings 2:8-9

Although Shimei lived close to the king in Jerusalem he could not be trusted, or looked upon as a real friend.

Shimei was not an innocent person.

David says, if he commits an offence against you, as he did against me, do not acquit him as I did. Watch and observe him, and, if he is found offending, punish him according to the rules of justice, and the laws of the land. Don't spare him on account of his age, but put him to death whenever he shall be found guilty, don't let him die a natural death.

David had kept his word to forgive Shimei but it seems he knew it came at a very high price. It was only three years before Solomon had cause to execute Shimei.

### **Conclusion**

Shimei said "I have sinned". It was true. Twice he had had his life spared by a gracious king. But David was no fool, and recognised that Shimei did not live in the grace of forgiveness but was a constant threat to the throne.

After his execution we are told; **The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon's hands.** (46)

"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive." --C.S. Lewis

May we **be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.** (Matt 10:16) Quick and willing to forgive fellow sinners, to keep our words, but not be blindly foolish.