

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Ecclesiastes 8.

When Absalom tried to steal the kingdom from his father, King David, David was forced to flee Jerusalem. While leaving and going to Bahurim, on his way, he and his men encounter a man named Shimei, who cursed David, calling David a man of bloodshed and a worthless fellow. (2 Sam. 16)

David's mighty men who were with him wanted to take Shimei's head off for cursing the king, but David refused. But, on his deathbed, David reminded the next king, Solomon, of Shimei's curse, and David told his son to "handle the matter," so to speak. Solomon made Shimei swear to stay inside his home in Jerusalem or face death. (1 Kings 2) For three years, Shimei did just that, never leaving his house. But one day, he left the house to seek his servants who had run away to the city of Gath.

Solomon heard of him leaving his house, confronted him of his broken promise, and then ended his life.

Jesus spoke of making and keeping our word. Matthew 5:37 says, "Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one." (NLT)

Committing to something and making a vow does not mean following through when easy and convenient. God holds us accountable for our words and commitments. In the end, Shimei's life was taken because of a broken commitment. We should think about our promises and pledges and what we commit to and be prepared to follow through.

Happy Friday. I hope you are in church this Sunday.