

# Betrayed Yet Believing

2 Samuel 15:1-16:14



## 35: Betrayed Yet Believing (2 Samuel 15:1-16:14)

*Betrayal has shattered countless friendships, families, and churches—but it doesn't have to destroy your faith. Discover how David remained "Betrayed Yet Believing" and why trusting God in painful seasons is still the path to peace.*

### beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register with our **CONNECT CARD**.

- Use our **WI-FI: *Worship Center Guest***

### getourapp

Download our **CHURCH APP** for sermons & notes, ways to connect, upcoming events, online giving, & more.



APP & NOTES



CONNECT CARD



GIVE

### teachingnotes

\* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

#### 2 Samuel 15:1-6

After this, Absalom got himself a chariot, horses, and fifty men to run before him. He would get up early and stand beside the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone had a grievance to bring before the king for settlement, Absalom called out to him and asked, "What city are you from?" If he replied, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel," Absalom said to him, "Look, your claims are good and right, but the king does not have anyone to listen to you." He added, "If only someone would **appoint me judge in the land**. Then anyone who had a grievance or dispute could come to me, and I would make sure he received justice." When a person approached to pay homage to him, Absalom reached out his hand, took hold of him, and kissed him. Absalom did this to all the Israelites who came to the king for a settlement. So **Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel**.

The king was the ultimate judge who would hear the issues of his people and then hand down a just decision. But now Absalom parks at the road that led to the city gate and is telling people King David doesn't have time for their petty concerns.

- 1) Absalom has developed a small army to protect him, 2) taken on the role of **judge**, a role that belonged to the king
- 3) Absalom has endeared himself to the people of Israel while making his Dad look bad.

#### 2 Samuel 15:7-9

When four years had passed, Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go to Hebron to fulfill a vow I made to the Lord. For your servant made a vow when I lived in Geshur of Aram, saying, 'If the Lord really brings me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the Lord in Hebron.'" "Go in peace," the king said to him. So he went to Hebron.

After **four years** of winning hearts, Absalom has positioned himself to launch a coup against the king, his own father.

- Ironically, while David said, "**Shalom**" - "**Go in peace**", this short journey to Hebron would light the fuse for war.
- **Absalom** means "father of peace" (*ab* - as in *abba*; *shalom*), yet he is the one who bring war on his father.
- This is the LAST TIME David will ever talk to his son.

#### 2 Samuel 15:10-18

Then Absalom sent agents throughout the tribes of Israel with this message: "When you hear the sound of the trumpet, you are to say, '**Absalom has become king in Hebron!**'" Two hundred men from Jerusalem went with Absalom. They had been invited and were going innocently, for they did not know the whole situation. While he was offering the sacrifices, Absalom sent for David's adviser Ahithophel the Gilonite, from his city of Giloh. So the conspiracy grew strong, and the people supporting Absalom continued to increase. Then an informer came to David and reported, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

David said to all the servants with him in Jerusalem, "Get up. We have to flee, or we will not escape from Absalom! Leave quickly, or he will overtake us quickly, heap disaster on us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword." The king's servants said to the king, "Whatever my lord the king decides, we are your servants." Then **the king set out, and his entire household followed him**. But he left behind ten concubines to take care of the palace. So the king set out, and all the people followed him. They stopped at the last house while all his servants marched past him. Then all the **Cherethites**, the **Pelethites**, and the **people of Gath—six hundred men** who **came with him** from there—marched past the king.

## 2 Samuel 15:19-21

The king said to Ittai of Gath, "Why are you also going with us? Go back and stay with the new king since you're both a foreigner and an exile from your homeland. Besides, you only arrived yesterday; should I make you wander around with us today while I go wherever I can? Go back and take your brothers with you. May the Lord show you kindness and faithfulness." But in response, Ittai vowed to the king, "As the Lord lives and as my lord the king lives, **wherever my lord the king is**, whether it means life or death, **your servant will be there!**"

"March on," David replied to Ittai. So Ittai of Gath marched past with all his men and the dependents who were with him. **Everyone in the countryside was weeping loudly while all the people were marching out of the city.** As the king was crossing the Kidron Valley, all the people were marching past on the road that leads to the wilderness.

Many didn't want David to leave. Except for his disobedience regarding Bathsheba & Uriah, David proved to have been a righteous king. But now David leaves Jerusalem, **crossing the Kidron Vally** to the Mount of Olives.

## 2 Samuel 15:24 -29

Zadok was also there, and all the Levites with him were carrying **the ark of the covenant of God**. They set **the ark of God** down, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until the people had finished marching past. Then the king instructed Zadok, "Return **the ark of God** to the city. **If I find favor with the Lord, He will bring me back** and allow me to see both it and its dwelling place. However, if He should say, 'I do not delight in you,' then here I am—**He can do with me whatever pleases Him.**" The king also said to the priest Zadok, "Look, return to the city in peace and your two sons with you: your son Ahimaaz and Abiathar's son Jonathan. Remember, I'll wait at the fords of the wilderness **until word comes from you to inform me.**" So Zadok and Abiathar returned **the ark of God** to Jerusalem and stayed there.

**Abiathar** was the priest who fled from Saul to David when his father was killed ([1 Sam 22:20-23](#)). Both he and Zadok served as co-high priests under David's reign.

**Do you hear the humility that has returned to David?** He has been **BETRAYED**, but...**He still BELIEVES** Yahweh's promises and His decisions. He trusts God in the middle of one of the toughest times of his life. Even when family and friends have drawn battle lines against David, David trusts God.

- The old David would have likely responded very differently: lies, rage, manipulation, self-protection, & seizing power.
- But this David: weeps, walks barefoot, accepts humiliation, leaves judgment to God, and entrusts himself to Yahweh.

† One might hear a faint foreshadowing of a future prayer that goes something like this, somewhere near where David was walking, "Father, not my will, but yours, be done." ([Lk 22:42](#))

## 2 Samuel 15:30-31

**David** was climbing the slope of **the Mount of Olives**, weeping as he ascended. His head was covered, and he was walking barefoot. All of the people with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they ascended. Then someone reported to David, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." "**Lord,**" David pleaded, "**please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!**"

David is rejected and **weeping** as he climbs **the Mount of Olives**, where the ultimate King would later weep on the eve of His rejection by his people.

**Could it get any worse?** David's own son has betrayed him and one over citizens of Israel. And now, one of David's most trusted advisors is a turncoat too! The man who knew David's way of thinking and likely knew his battle plans...has BETRAYED him.

**What can David do?** David can PRAY. David asks Yahweh to turn this man's wise counsel into foolish counsel. In this moment one can understand how David's psalms say things like this:

---

**Psalms 41:9** Even my friend in whom I trusted, one who ate my bread, **has raised his heel against me.**

---

## 2 Samuel 15:32-34

When David came to the summit where he used to worship God, Hushai the Archite was there to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head. David said to him, "If you go away with me, you'll be a burden to me, but if you **return to the city** and tell Absalom, 'I will be your servant, Your Majesty! Previously, I was your father's servant, but now I will be your servant,' then you can **counteract Ahithophel's counsel for me**. Won't the priests Zadok and Abiathar be there with you? Report everything you hear from the palace to the priests Zadok and Abiathar. Take note: their two sons are there with them—Zadok's son Ahimaaz and Abiathar's son Jonathan. **Send them to tell me everything you hear.**" So Hushai, David's personal adviser, entered Jerusalem just as Absalom was entering the city.

David is no dummy. He now has spies planted in Jerusalem to update him on Absalom's plans.

## 2 Samuel 16:1-4

When David had gone a little beyond the summit, **Ziba**, Mephibosheth's servant, was right there to meet him. He had a pair of saddled donkeys loaded with two hundred loaves of bread, one hundred clusters of raisins, one hundred bunches of summer fruit, and a clay jar of wine. The king said to Ziba, "Why do you have these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride, the bread and summer fruit are for the young men to eat, and the wine is for those to drink who become exhausted in the wilderness."

"Where is your master's grandson?" the king asked. "Why, he's staying in Jerusalem," Ziba replied to the king, "for he said, 'Today, the house of Israel will restore my grandfather's kingdom to me.'"

The king said to Ziba, "All that belongs to Mephibosheth is now yours!" "I bow before you," Ziba said. "May I find favor with you, my lord the king!"

Sadly, even after all the grace David had shown crippled Mephibosheth - treating him like a son - he had been convinced he had a better deal with Absalom too - OR so it seems. It's very possible that Ziba is lying (see chapter 19). Imagine you are in David's position; your son, many of your people, your chief advisor, and now an adopted son...have all betrayed you.

## 2 Samuel 16:5-11

When King David got to Bahurim, a man belonging to the family of the house of Saul was just coming out. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he was yelling curses as he approached. He threw stones at David and at all the royal servants, the people and the warriors on David's right and left. Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of bloodshed, you wicked man! The Lord has paid you back for all the blood of the house of Saul in whose place you became king, and the Lord has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. Look, you are in trouble because you're a man of bloodshed!"

Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and remove his head!" The king replied, "Sons of Zeruiah, do we agree on anything? He curses me this way because **the Lord** told him, 'Curse David!' Therefore, who can say, 'Why did you do that?'"

Then David said to Abishai and all his servants, "Look, **my own son**, my own flesh and blood, **intends to take my life**—how much more now this Benjaminite! Leave him alone and let him curse me; **the Lord has told him to.**

That doesn't sound like cocky David, does it? It sounds like humble David, even willing to receive God's discipline through a stone throwing peasant.

## 2 Samuel 16:12-14

Perhaps **the Lord** will see **my affliction** and **restore goodness to me** instead of Shimei's curses today." So David and his men proceeded along the road as Shimei was going along the ridge of the hill opposite him. As Shimei went, he cursed David, threw stones at him, and kicked up dust. Finally, the king and all the people with him arrived exhausted, so **they rested** there.

And there we see it - **BETRAYED yet BELIEVING** - David is trusting God's will above his own.

The consequence of David's sin has been brutal, and it's not over yet.

## Parallels between David, and "the Son of David" (1,000 years later)

- As **David left Jerusalem and headed out across the Kidron to the Mount of Olives - WEEPING**, Jesus crossed over the same spot many times, even weeping over the people of Jerusalem not receiving him. That's even where he went the night he would be arrested.
- As **David's own son betrays his own father**, so too Jesus was betrayed with a kiss from Judas, who had lived with him for at least 3 years and who had experienced the last supper seated next to Jesus. You can see why John notes that Jesus quotes Ps 41:9 just hours earlier during the last supper.

**John 13:18** ...the Scripture must be fulfilled: **The one who eats my bread has raised his heel against me.** [Ps 41:9]

- As **King David was betrayed by the people of Israel for another king**, King Jesus was betrayed by the people of Israel who handed him over to the Romans and claimed that Caesar was the king they wanted.

**John 19:15** They shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered.

🕒 **Both were BETRAYED, yet both BELIEVING** the plan of God the Father would be worked out.

Betrayal has a way of convincing us that God has abandoned us.

Jesus was betrayed, abandoned, falsely accused, mocked, beaten, crucified, and yet continued entrusting Himself to the Father.

- He went to the cross for YOU.
- He was betrayed for YOU.
- He suffered for YOU.
- He died for YOU.
- And He rose again for YOU.

## ***BIG TRUTH: Don't let the betrayal of a sinner keep you from BELIEVING the promise of the Savior.***

The next time you go through a tough time (not a natural consequence of your sin), the next time you are betrayed (even when you've been faithful), remember what the Lord Jesus has done for YOU! His love has been demonstrated for you.

- Seek His will above yours.
- Ask Jesus & your faith family for HELP!
- Lay your head on the pillow and BELIEVE Jesus - TRUST Him! Believe His promises. Trust His character. Bask in His love.
- Remember: what feels like a temporary struggle may have eternal significance in the hands of God.

## **heretoserveyou**

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

## **Discussion questions**

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-12. What methods did Absalom use to “steal the hearts of the men of Israel”? Why do you think those tactics were so effective?
2. Read 2 Samuel 15:25-26. What does David's response to the Ark reveal about his relationship with God during this difficult season?
3. Read 2 Samuel 15:30-31. How do David's tears and prayer demonstrate both grief and faith at the same time?
4. Read 2 Samuel 16:5-12. Why do you think David refused Abishai's offer to kill Shimei? What does this teach us about humility and trusting God's justice?
5. Read 2 Samuel 16:12. David said, “Perhaps the LORD will see my affliction and restore goodness to me.” How does this verse capture the theme “Betrayed Yet Believing”?
6. Read John 13:18, John 18:1, and John 19:15. What similarities do you see between David's experience and Jesus' experience?
7. Have you ever experienced betrayal by a friend, family member, coworker, or fellow believer? How did that experience affect your trust in God?
8. What practical steps can help us continue believing God when we feel hurt, abandoned, misunderstood, or betrayed?