

II Samuel 16-18 –19 May 2022

“Absalom Part 2 of 2: Carried Thru By Loyalty”

Introduction

- *II Samuel – depicts the entire reign of King David
- *Chap 5-10 we saw the zenith of Davidic Kingdom
- *Chap 11-12 we saw David’s great sin & cover-up
- *Chap 13-15 we begin the story of Absalom, but it’s really the story of David’s sins of omission
 - *David omitted righteousness & reconciliation with his own sons b/c he was failing w/ similar sins
- *David’s sins of omission have grown so large that Absalom has won the hearts of the common man & David is now on the run at the end of chap 15
- *In this, part 2 of the story of Absalom, we’ll see how David is carried thru these hard times by the loyalty of others
- *Today, here’s 3 parts for how loyalty works**

1st part to how loyalty works is the motivations of loyalty (Chap 16:1-23)

Read Chap 16:1-4

1. We'll see in chap 19 that Ziba lied about Mephibosheth
2. David here gives all that belonged to M to Z
3. 'Never let a crisis go to waste' without taking selfish advantage – used crisis for his own benefit
4. Motivations
 - a. Ziba is motivated by gaining for self
 - b. In chap 19:30 we'll see Mephibosheth willing to give it all away just to have David back

Read Vs 5-8

1. Shimei wrongly thought that this was God moving against David
 - a. Don't bring God into it, unless you KNOW who's side He's on
2. Shimei was motivated by emotion & erratic
 - a. Leads to snap decisions not thought-thru

Read Vs 9-14

1. David told his men to refrain from harming Shimei for this cursing
 - a. Listen to your critics, there may be an ounce of truth – 1st question...are they right?
2. Ironically, had David actually been a bloodthirsty man, he would have killed him!

Read Vs 15-19

1. Hushai convinces Absalom that he'll be loyal to him
2. True Motivation
 - a. He's motivated to help the godly by using peaceful means
 - b. He's a thinking man, an intellectual

Read Vs 20-23

1. Absalom seeks to strength his kingdom in all the “right” ways by sleeping w/ David's concubines at the counsel of Ahithophel
2. Ahithophel is motivated by pride for war

2nd part to how loyalty works is the methods of loyalty (Chap 17:1-29)

Read Chap 17:1-4

1. Ahithophel advises to go kill David now while he's weak and short on men

Read Vs 5-14

1. Hushai convinces Absalom to NOT pursue David right now...and Absalom takes his counsel
2. Hushai's methods are that of a tactical support
 - a. Uses his brain to show loyalty for David

Read Vs 15-17

1. David's spies send word to David by Jonathan and Ahimaaz the priest's sons
2. Their methods are covert / undercover

Read Vs 18-20

1. Man & woman in Bahurim hid J & A from Absalom's men
2. Their methods are of spontaneous support

Read Vs 21-22

1. David gets word from Jerusalem & flees further

Read Vs 23

1. Suicide not b/c of hurt feelings but b/c he knew Hushai's plan would hinder Absalom, David would win & he would be caught
2. House in order then killed himself
3. You can be all forms of earthly wise, yet spiritually blind and a fool
4. He used his intellectual methods for self-advancement & when he knew it would fail, he bailed

Read Vs 24-26

1. Just setting up Amasa for later

Read Vs 27-29

1. David finds comfort in these 3 men
2. Their method is that of material support
3. Some are gifted to be loyal w/ physical helps

3rd part to how loyalty works is the limit of loyalty (Chap 18:1-33)

Read Chap 18:1-5

1. David divides his army to 3 generals; Ittai the Philistine of Gath that choose David & the Lord
2. *Notice David is still incumbered in his heart to deal with Absalom as he needs dealt with*

Read Vs 6-10

1. Absalom gets stuck in a tree by the hair
2. Absalom had this detailed plan of treachery that he executed & now some random act (at the hand of God) was his downfall

Read Vs 11-13

1. Young man explains that he didn't kill Absalom b/c of David's request to treat him gently
2. *This man isn't able to make the hard decision*

Read Vs 14-17

1. *Joab did what David couldn't do; bring justice*

2. Joab was correct in believing that David is better w/ Absalom dead, yet not right for killing him b/c David, his authority, said not to
3. Loyalty makes the hard decisions b/c it's helpful, even though it's hard (Jesus-take this cup)

Read Vs 18

1. You'd expect a self-centered man to promote self in death (& life) rather than promoting God

Read Vs 19-23

1. Ahimaaz wanted to go tell David but was held back by Joab as he allowed Cushai to go... eventually letting Ahimaaz go also

Read Vs 24-27

1. David assumed Ahimaaz had good news

Read Vs 28-32

1. Ahimaaz tries sparing David from the death of Absalom, but Cushai arrives & gives it anyway

Read Vs 33

1. David mourns w/ heartfelt emotion

Conclusion

So let us be the right kind of friends, loyal friends

1. What motivates us to support others?

- a. Is it self-gain, or do we desire relationship?
- b. Don't make snap decisions from emotion
- c. Like Hushai, maybe we're motivated by peaceful means to help the godly

2. How's God crafted your methods to help?

- a. Are you the tactician, using your brain?
- b. Are you the quiet covert helper?
- c. Are you one that offers spontaneous help?
- d. Are you one that offers material support?

3. A true loyalist will also have a limit

- a. They're willing to make the hard decisions
- b. They're willing at great cost to do what's right, even if it hurts the one they're loyal to

God showed His loyalty to us by sending Jesus at cost

Let us show our loyalty back to Him – oh how He loves us