

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 42 – LESSONS FOR LIFE’S JOURNEY – 2 Samuel 15:1 - 16:14

I. ABSALOM’S ASCENT TO JERUSALEM 15:1-12

- Motivated by an offended and unforgiving heart, Absalom used kisses, religious words, and the things of God to steal the hearts of the men of Israel! cf. Ps. 55:21
- Absalom’s conspiracy gained strength and his following continued to increase, eventually even to include Ahithophel, David’s former counselor, and incidentally, Bathsheba’s grandfather! cf. Ps. 55:12-14

II. DAVID’S DESCENT FROM JERUSALEM 15:13 - 16:14

- With Absalom’s army advancing, David, his loyal officers, and faithful men, move quickly from Jerusalem, seeking to spare the City from the destruction that would result if Absalom were to “*strike the city with the edge of the sword!*” 15:14

*** From David’s encounters along the road from Jerusalem, we can derive many powerful lessons for our journey.**

A. LEARN TO EMBRACE ENCOURAGEMENT 15:18-37

- As David began his difficult trek from the city, there were many who came alongside to lend support and strength.

1. THE DEPENDABILITY OF ITTAI v18-22

- Ittai, the leader of the Gittite mercenaries, approaches David to affirm his commitment to the King. cf. Ruth 1:16,17
- The loyalty of the foreign mercenaries is contrasted with the disloyalty of David’s own sons and friends. cf. Ps. 41:9

*** Lesson:** *God will often bring encouragement in ways you least expect!*

2. THE LOYALTY OF ZADOK AND ABIATHAR v24-31

- Zadok and Abiathar, along with the Levites under their direction, carry the Ark forth from the city, to accompany David in the way.

*** Lesson:** *Those who chose to walk close to the Ark of God will also choose to stay close to the man of God!*

3. THE FIDELITY OF HUSHI v32-37

- As David reaches the summit of the Mt. of Olives, he is greeted by Hushi, his longtime friend and confidant. cf. 1 Chr. 27:33

*** Lesson:** *God will position people in your path to strengthen you in the journey of faith!*

Don’t just seek the encouragement of others but ask God to help you refresh and encourage others by your presence.

“refresh” – 1 Cor. 16:18; 2 Cor. 7:13; 2 Tim. 1:16; Phile. 1:7
Barnabas – Acts 4:36; 9:26-3; 11:23-24; 15:36-41 >>> 2 Timothy 4:11

B. LEARN TO ENDURE DISCOURAGEMENT 16:1-14

1. THE FEIGNED ASSISTANCE OF ZIBA 16:1-4

- As David passes the summit, he is met by Ziba, a former servant of Saul, who presents an abundance of provision to David. v1
 - When David desired to show kindness to any of the surviving members of Jonathan's family, it was Ziba who directed David to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. cf. 2 Sam. 9:1-8
 - David then placed Ziba in charge of the property that he restored to Mephibosheth. cf. 2 Sam. 9:9-13
- David is somewhat suspicious of Ziba's motives and questions him as to where he had obtained such great provisions. v2
- When David questions him as to Mephibosheth's whereabouts, Ziba accuses Mephibosheth of treason. v3
- Failing to verify Ziba's story, David punishes Mephibosheth by giving to Ziba everything that belonged to his master. v4
 - Mephibosheth will later claim that it was Ziba who'd deceived and slandered him. cf. 2 Sam. 19:24-28
 - Uncertain of who to believe, David orders that Saul's land be divided between them. cf. 2 Sam. 19:29

* **Lesson:** *Not everyone who looks like a friend is a friend; trust your gut!*

2. THE FIERCE ACCUSATIONS OF SHIMEI 16:5-14

- David and his men finally enter Bahurim, a village in the tribal territory of Benjamin, on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.
- Shimei, a resident of the city and a relative of Saul, comes forth to express his hatred and displeasure for David by cursing the King and hurling stones at his entourage. v1-8
 - Shimei accuses David of blood-guiltiness in the deaths of the descendants of Saul, defaming him as a worthless "rogue!"
 - David had already been released from any culpability in the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (1 Sam. 29), Abner (2 Sam. 3:22-39) and Ishbosheth (2 Sam. 4:1-12).
- Seeking to rid his King of this petty annoyance, Abishai seeks permission to remove Shimei's head, in the same way David removed Goliath's, who had cursed Israel. cf. 1 Sam. 17:43-46
- David stays Abishai's hand, reasoning that if Absalom, his own son, and a member of the Davidic / Judahite Community, is attempting to take his life, it shouldn't be surprising that a member of the Saulide / Benjamite Community would be bent on David's ruin as well.
- While David didn't understand the *process* he was undergoing, he believed that God would work out His *purpose* through it all.

* **Lesson:** *Be ready for hostility; learn to respond and not to react!*