

Finding Out Who Your Friends Are

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1 Kings 1:5-8 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom. And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped him. But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.

- I. How will the friends we have had during our life behave when we are in our last days?
 - A. There are true friends and then there are fair weather friends.
 - B. There are friends who are friends because they love you, respect you, appreciate you, and think of your honor.
 1. Some of these may seem to be almost strangers during your lifetime, but hold you in higher regard than you realize.
 - C. But you can be assured that you have friends who have only been there only because being associated with you was some kind of benefit to them.
 1. Some of those might very well be even those of your own household, who are without natural affection.
 2. It was David's own favored son, whom he had spoiled and indulged and whom he had never denied anything.
 3. David's dotting had not won the boy's love and loyalty, but had the opposite effect – and it always does.

- II. How can we tell who will be our friend in the end?
 - A. There are some things to look for, but it is inevitable that we will have some surprises when the time comes.
 - B. We will be surprised by some who are loyal and by some who turn on us and abandon us.
 - C. Basically, those who step up and stand with us in the bad times of our lives are the ones who will stand with us in the end.
 - D. It is not necessarily those who stand with us passively when the chips are down, but those who put in their oar in those times.
 - E. The length of time that someone has been a part of our life is no proof that they are a loyal and true friend.
 1. Remember Abiathar the priest?

1 Samuel 22:20-23 And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests. And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

2. Abiathar had been with David for a long, long time, but he turned against David in the end and cast his lot with Adonijah.

3. Even though David had taken care of him for a lifetime, he evidently felt that he deserved more, or he harbored some kind of grudge in his heart against David all those years.

F. Those who are not true friends are able to identify those who are.

1 Kings 1:9-10 And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En-rogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants: But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

1. Watch those around you and see who excludes who.
2. Watch those who form alliances and who are continually “feeling people out.”
3. Watch those who report to you when someone you count as a friend is working against you.
4. But be very careful in all this because false friends will try to deceive you with these tactics, also.

G. Do not lose confidence in everyone and despair of having true friends.

1. David was being done a dishonor and his own son and many of those who were known to be David’s friends were trying to usurp David’s authority, his position, and change the course of the kingdom behind his back.
2. Not only were they dishonoring David himself, but God and his will for the kingdom.
3. They were totally motivated by selfishness and pride – not by any noble cause or purpose.
4. But at the same time David had friends who would not stand idly by and let this happen.
5. At great risk to their own lives they stood with David and caused this evil to be stopped.
6. So be thankful for faithful friends and watch out for those who are unfaithful.

III. It is interesting to note the difference between Adonijah and Solomon.

A. Adonijah said, “I will be king.”

1. So unlike his father – who never aspired to be king, and who would never lift his hand against the Lord’s anointed.

B. Solomon had to know about what was going on, and he knew that he was set to be king, but he never said a word or lifted a hand in this matter.

1. This is very much like his father.

C. The outcome of this situation depended upon the loyal friends of David.

1. Those who trusted him, loved him, and honored him, even though they knew he would soon be gone.
2. Those who obeyed his orders and carried out his wishes regardless of the cost to themselves.

D. The kingdom was saved by those who stood with their friend when all was at stake for themselves.

E. Pray God will give you friends like that.

F. Pray God gives you the good sense and discernment to know who they are by the time you become unable to keep your eye on everything yourself.

G. Pray God gives you the wisdom and discernment to be loyal to your own loyal friends.

H. Finally, pray God will help you to have a heart prone to forgive those who prove themselves unfaithful friends.