

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
SOME PEOPLE GOD PUT IN DAVID'S LIFE
2 SAMUEL 15:13-28

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Introduction

We have seen that David is **continuing to reap the consequences of his sin** with Bathsheba **just as the LORD said would happen!** There is little doubt that David is at one of the lowest points of his life here as **His own beloved son, Absalom, has risen up in rebellion against him and has caused him to flee from his palace and from the city of Jerusalem!**

That is what was happening as we left off last week— David was on the run again! **This time it is in fear for his life and the life of his loved ones and even for his beloved city of Jerusalem!**

At this point in time David didn't need a lecture on being a better father.

He didn't need a seminar of how to govern a kingdom.

He didn't need someone coming along to tell him what a failure he is.

He knew that well enough by now. What David needed, the LORD sent to him! He needed some people to show him kindness!

He needed some true friends!

2 Samuel 15 talks about some friends that walked into David's life at just the moment he needed them. We'll see some more in later chapters, but let's take a look the ones in this Chapter. The Bible says in *Proverbs 18:24*, "...there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

In our study tonight, we will see that passage come to life. **The LORD put some people in David's life**—some friends who came to David's aid right in his time of need, we can see what real friends ought to be and we can see a picture of the ultimate Friend, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**I. FIRST WE SEE ITTAI THE GITTITE AND HIS 600 MEN!
(2 SAMUEL 15:18-22)**

Ittai was the commander of a group of 600 men that came to Israel from Gath to follow David. (vs. 18)

Gath, if you remember, was in the land of the Philistines and was the hometown of Goliath. When we were studying *1 Samuel 27-30* that talks about when David was on the run from King Saul, we saw that David spent some time living among the Philistines.

Apparently, David had made an impression on Ittai and the rest of these men. Now that David is on the run again, Ittai expresses his desire to be with David.

Now, Ittai is a person who has been in the background and we don't know a lot about him. This is the first time his name is mentioned. But, **we can see his character in what he does. What people do shows their character!**

When the chips were down in David's life, Ittai stepped up and both **voiced his support and demonstrated his support for the exiled king.**

In fact, we see that **he pledged his absolute allegiance to David, even if it meant death for himself!** (vs. 21) Now, THAT is a true friend! That's the kind of friend that David needed in his present condition in exile! And when he got Ittai, he got the 600 men that were with him! And seeing as how David was shorthanded on men too, that was a great bonus!

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Once, a British newspaper ran a contest asking for the definition of a *friend*. The winning entry was this thought: "**A friend is the first person who comes in when the whole world goes out.**" That is what Ittai did for David!

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As we go through this life, we should **thank God for those true friends who fit into that category for us, Amen! Thank God for the people He sends our way who stick with us not only when we are on top, but also when we have hit rock bottom!**

I know I certainly have had and still have some friends like that! If you have even one friend like Ittai, then you are a wealthy person!

Sadly, many people will be our friends when all is well in our life and when they can benefit from being around us. But a real friend, a true friend, loves us when we have absolutely nothing left to give!

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
SOME PEOPLE GOD PUT IN DAVID'S LIFE
2 SAMUEL 15:13-28

If you can't think of any friends like Ittai in your life, but you have Jesus in your life, realize that you have at least that one Friend Who sticks closer than brother!

He is One Who will never walk out on us!

Hebrews 13:5 5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

He is One Who loves us regardless of our current condition!

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

In Jesus, we have a Friend Who cares for us when we are up and runs to our side when we are down! Jesus is a true Friend!

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

1 Peter 5:6-7 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

**II. NEXT WE SEE ZADOK AND ABIATHAR.
(2 SAMUEL 15:23-29)**

Zadok and Abiathar were both priests. **They were men of God who loved David and wanted to follow him!**

When David fled from Absalom, they followed David bringing with them the Ark of the Covenant. (A symbol of the manifest presence of God!)

David, however, sent them back to Jerusalem with the Ark (which is where the Ark belonged), placing his trust in the power of God to deliver him! (Vs 25-26)

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
SOME PEOPLE GOD PUT IN DAVID'S LIFE
2 SAMUEL 15:13-28

David told them here that they could best serve him by being his eyes and ears in the city. Then, without comment, the two priests turned around and carried the Ark back into the city.

By returning to Jerusalem and agreeing to act as spies for David, these men took a great risk—They put their very lives on the line for him!

These two demonstrate one of the great marks of a true friend. **A genuine friend will love you and accept you, even when he may not understand you or agree with you. A real friend will stand by you regardless of the risks involved.** They will stick out their necks for you. They will be where you need them to be when others turn and walk away!

A genuine friend might even get hurt in the process of taking your side. Nevertheless, you will find them standing firm, in your corner! That is a real friend! **If you any friends like that, then God has greatly blessed your life.**

Too many times some of our friends turn out like one I heard in a story.

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Two men were out hunting in the northern U.S. Suddenly one yelled and the other looked up to see a grizzly charging them. The first one started to run and his friend yelled at him, "What are you doing? Don't you know you can't outrun a grizzly bear?" The friend replied, "I don't have to outrun a grizzly. I just have to outrun you!"
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Unfortunately, that is the kind of friends most folks have. When the chips are down, they think of themselves first. But listen, a true friend always puts you first!

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There is a good story from the Civil War that illustrates this point.

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
SOME PEOPLE GOD PUT IN DAVID'S LIFE
2 SAMUEL 15:13-28

Sam Davis was a Confederate spy who was executed at Pulaski, Tennessee, for his crime. When captured by the Union army, he had in his possession some papers of vital importance. After examining the case closely, the officers in charge knew he must have had an accomplice in securing the papers. He was court-martialed, led out before the firing squad and blindfolded. Then the officer in charge put forward a proposition: "If you will give us the name of the man who furnished you this information, you may go free." Sam Davis did not hesitate in his reply, "If I had a thousand lives I would give them all before I would betray a friend."

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Those of us who know the LORD find such a friend in Jesus, Amen! Thank God He put us first! (“*When He Was On The Cross, I Was On His Mind*”) He loved us so much that even when we were sinners, He gave Himself for us on the cross to save our very souls!

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

He is a Friend Who loved us even when we are unlovable and undeserving of His love! My what a faithful Friend!

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

III. LASTLY IN THIS CHAPTER WE FIND HUSHAI THE ARCHITE. (2 SAMUEL 15:30-37)

Hushai was the next friend to come to David's side! We are told in *verse 37* that he was David's friend.

He came to meet David as David was leaving Jerusalem, and we see that Hushai was clearly in mourning. He was broken hearted over what was happening to his king and to his friend. (*Vs 32*)

We see that David sent him back into the city. He told him to go to Absalom and feign allegiance.

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
SOME PEOPLE GOD PUT IN DAVID'S LIFE
2 SAMUEL 15:13-28

David wanted Hushai to counter the counsel of old Ahithophel.

Ahithophel was David's counselor, but he was also Bathsheba's grandfather. We can understand how He saw the rebellion of Absalom as an opportunity to get even with David for what he had done to Bathsheba and Uriah.

So, Hushai did what David asked and we will see that he actually saved David's life. (*2 Samuel 17:15-22*)

He served as David's eyes and ears in the throne room. He was heroic in that he laid his life on the line for his friend. One slip and Hushai would have been a dead man!

They may be few, but friends that will take that kind of stand for you are a precious treasure! **David was blessed in that he had these people that the LORD brought into His life who were willing to take a chance to help him in his time of need!**

He had Hushai, Zadok, Abiathar, their two sons Jonathan and Ahimaaz, an unknown girl who took a message, *17:17*, and an unnamed woman who hid Jonathan and Ahimaaz as they carried a message to David, *17:18-21*.

Thank the Lord for those friends who will stand by us no matter what the cost! That is one of the marks of a true friend!

The saints have such a Friend in the Lord Jesus! He put everything on the line for us, His friends. He placed us ahead of Himself. He stormed the ramparts of Hell; defeated the power of sin, death, Hell and the grave. He gave us the victory that He suffered to win for us! Oh what a Friend we have in Jesus!