

SECOND DAY: Read 2 Samuel 15:13-37

1. David's son Absalom *stole the hearts of the men of Israel*, forcing David to flee Jerusalem. What do you find most compelling about the scene in 2 Samuel 15:13-18?
2. Remark on the conversation between David and Ittai the Gittite from 2 Samuel 15:19-22.
 - a. How do David's words showcase his concern for Ittai?
 - b. What is your impression of Ittai?
3. Comment on the reaction of *the country* to these events using 2 Samuel 15:23.
4. After an emotional crossing at the *Brook Kidron*, David gave instruction to the priests, Zadok and Abiathar. What were his instructions? 2 Samuel 15:25-28
 - a. What do David's words in 2 Samuel 15:26b reveal about his relationship with God?
5. Describe David's demeanor *as he went up* from there. 2 Samuel 15:30
6. Ahithophel had been David's *counselor* (2 Samuel 15:12). What news did David receive concerning him? 2 Samuel 15:31a
 - a. From 2 Samuel 16:23 remark on the danger of Ahithophel's counsel.
 - b. Record David's prayer in 2 Samuel 15:31b.
7. What did David do when he *had come to the top of the mountain*? 2 Samuel 15:32a
 - a. What do you find remarkable about this?
 - (1) How is this a lesson for you.?
8. Use 2 Samuel 15:32b-36 to comment on how Hushai the Archite's appearance was an immediate answer to David's prayer in 2 Samuel 15:31b.
9. How are Ittai the Gittite and Hushai the Archite examples of God's favor toward David?
 - b. Share a way God ministered His favor to you during a distressing time.

THIRD DAY: Read 2 Samuel 16

1. 2 Samuel 16:1-4 records how Ziba, a former servant of Saul, took advantage of David's situation to slander and cheat his master, Mephibosheth. What happened to David after his encounter with Ziba? 2 Samuel 16:5-8
 - a. What do you think about Shimei's accusations and behavior?

2. From 2 Samuel 16:9-12 comment on the conversation between Abishai and David.
 - a. What was David's consolation? 2 Samuel 16:12

 - b. How does this consolation encourage you? See also Proverbs 26:2.

3. Write your impression of the scene in 2 Samuel 16:13-14.

4. *Meanwhile, after Absalom and the men of Israel entered Jerusalem with Ahithophel, Hushai the Archite came to Absalom. Summarize their conversation from 2 Samuel 16:16-19.*

5. Link the advice of Ahithophel (2 Samuel 16:21) with Nathan's prophecy in 2 Samuel 12:11-12. What do you see?
 - a. What did Ahithophel hope to achieve through this wicked act? 2 Samuel 16:21-26

6. Contrast the way Absalom treated David with the way David had treated Saul. 1 Samuel 24:6; 26:10-11
 - a. How does this speak to you?

FOURTH DAY: Read 2 Samuel 17

1. In 2 Samuel 17:1-4 Ahithophel's counsel was to attack David with 12,000 men while he was *weary and weak*. Although Absalom liked this advice, he asked for Hushai's counsel. What did Hushai advise? 2 Samuel 17:7-13
 - a. What was the reaction of Absalom and *the men of Israel*? 2 Samuel 17:14a
 - b. According to 2 Samuel 17:14b, why did they respond this way?
 - (1) Link this with David's prayer in 2 Samuel 15:31b. What does this convey to you?
 - (2) How does this encourage you concerning prayer? See also Psalm 34:15.
2. Briefly capture the intrigue from 2 Samuel 17:15-22.
 - a. How do you see the Lord's hand at work in these events?
3. Remark on the fate of Ahithophel from 2 Samuel 17:23.
 - a. Why do you think he reacted this way?
4. Sum up the events of 2 Samuel 17:24-26.
5. What kindness was shown to David in 2 Samuel 17:27-29?
6. Use 2 Samuel 17 to remark on how you see God extending His favor to David in the midst of these tumultuous times.
 - a. Share a time when God's hand was evident to you during a difficult season.

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Samuel 18:5-17; 19:1-8, 14

1. In 2 Samuel 18:1-4 David's army prepared to fight Absalom. What had David *commanded* concerning Absalom? 2 Samuel 18:5
2. Describe the *battle* from 2 Samuel 18:6-8.
3. What happened to Absalom? 2 Samuel 18:9-10
4. Read 2 Samuel 18:11-13 and comment on the conversation between Joab and the *man*.
5. In spite of what the *man* said, what did Joab do? 2 Samuel 18:14-17
 - a. Compare Joab with the *man* who would not touch Absalom. What do you see?
6. News came to David that his enemies had been defeated and Absalom had been killed (2 Samuel 18:18-33). Although it was a day of victory, David began to mourn for his son. What was the result of his mourning? 2 Samuel 19:1-4
 - a. What stands out the most to you from Joab's rebuke? 2 Samuel 19:5-6
 - b. From 2 Samuel 19:7 comment on the potential repercussions of David's demeanor.
 - (1) What does this reveal concerning a leader's influence on others?
7. What was the result of Joab's rebuke? 2 Samuel 19:8, 14
 - a. Why do you think the behavior of David was critical at this time?
 - b. Why is it important to set a good example? See Titus 2:7-8.
 - c. How can you be an example of Jesus even in hard times?

