

The David, Shepherd and King
#23 David's Faithful Friends, 2 Samuel 15-17
(8/22/10 AM)

God did sustain David through this trying time. David testified of this in Psalm 3. David was not alone when he went over the Mount of Olives that day (15:18). Along with them a few individuals are named who came to David in his distress.

God Ministers to His People through His People

1. Ittai the Gittite (15:19-23)
An Unlikely Ally

- **He was a Philistine**

A "Gittite" is a native or inhabitant of Gath. Goliath was from Gath. Ittai was not just a Philistine, he was a commander of troops. David will eventually turnover command of one third of his army to Ittai's command (18:2). (20) "Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth be with you." David was committing his friend to God's care. "Mercy" is the word *hesed*, which means loyal love based upon a covenant. All true Christian friendships are covenant friendships and are characterized by "mercy and truth."

Do Not Discount the Power of Personal Presence

- **He was a faithful friend**

He had not attached himself to David for personal gain or profit. Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times."

Superficial friends disappear at the first sign of adversity.

After the Prodigal Son had spent everything, he found himself feeding the pigs and "no one gave him anything", Luke 15:16.

It is possible that Ittai had become a believer in the God of Israel. He invoked the name of Yahweh "As the Lord lives." In a time of apostasy and rebellion, this man declared publically his unequivocal loyalty to David. David saw God's hand in these events, Psalm 3:8.

Ittai's Faithfulness Was an Emblem to David of God's Faithfulness

2. Zadok and Abiathar (15:24-29)
The Priests of the LORD

David has been responsible for bringing the Ark to Jerusalem. David would have been encouraged by their presence, but instructed them to "Carry the ark of God back into the city" (25).

- **David understood that the Lord was at the center of these events not him**

In the midst of trials I must remove myself from the center of my focus. David's response revealed his faith in the Lord's sovereign purpose for his life. He committed the situation to the Lord (25).

Zadok and Abiathar Were Willing to Do Whatever David Asked of Them

3. Hushai the Archite (15:32-17:23)
An Answer to Prayer

The Archites were descendants of Canaan and therefore Gentiles, Genesis 10:17. He was sent by God in answer to David's prayer (31). He was apparently one of David's counselors. He is called "David's friend" (15:37). A true friend has a way of refreshing your spirit, Proverbs 27:9.

- **Hushai came to share David's sorrow**

The word "robe" is for the inner garment which indicates a deeper sorrow. This was no mere display, Hushai was deeply troubled by David's situation. A friend hurts when you hurt, Romans 12:15.

God Will Often Bring the Right Person into Our Life at the Right Moment

- **Hushai came to share David's suffering**

He came prepared to follow David into exile. (15:33) "David said to him, 'If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me.'"

It was most likely because of Hushai's age that David said this. Also David had another task for Hushai to perform. (15:34) "But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant,

O king; as I was your father's servant previously, so I will now also be your servant', then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me."

This creates a moral dilemma. Didn't David ask Hushai to violate the law and lie to Ahithophel? He was to be at the center of David's espionage

ring (15:35-36). The Bible records many things it does not condone. Hushai did as David asked. The scripture certainly shows the hand of God in all of this. (15:37) "So Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem." There is only one mountain separating the forces of David and Absalom. Hushai came to meet Absalom who questioned his loyalty. (16:17) "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" Hushai's response was a bit ambiguous. (16:18) "No, but whom the Lord and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain." The Lord had certainly chosen David not Absalom to be king. Ahithophel came up with a brilliant plan to destroy David. (17:1-2) "Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, 'Now let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king'."

David Miller says of his plan involved "use of overwhelming force, the element of surprise and a narrowly focused objective." Hushai advised Absalom not to rush into battle, but to gather all of his forces before attacking David.

(17:14) "So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, 'The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel.' For the Lord had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring disaster on Absalom."

God Used David's Faithful Friends in the Fulfillment of His Purposes in David's Life