

I. Introduction and review:

- A. I and II Samuel are about Israel looking for a leader: Eli, Samuel, Saul, David.
- B. Civil war in Israel. II Samuel 15-20
 - 1. Absalom's rebellion: stealing hearts, then stealing the kingdom. 15:1-12
 - a. David's flight (with meetings) 15:13-16:14
 - (1) The clash of the counselors. 16:15-17:23
 - (1) The clash of the armies. 17:24-18:33
 - a. David's return (with meetings) 19
 - 1. The rebellion is decisively crushed. 20

II. David flees into the wilderness and encounters friends and enemies. 15:13-16:14

- A. David makes a quick escape. 15:13-18
 - 1. Fleeing is not new for David. I Sam. 19:12,18 22:17
 - 2. Why does David leave the concubines behind? v. 16 12:11-12 16:21-22
 - 3. How could the people of Israel turn against David after all he had done for them?
- B. David's loyal foreign friend Ittai the Gittite accompanies him into exile. v. 19-23
 - 1. Ittai is an unlikely friend, being a Philistine from Gath (Goliath's hometown).
 - 2. David encourages Ittai to take him and his men to safety. v. 19-20
 - 3. Ittai declares his willingness to follow David to the death. v. 20-22 Ruth 1:16-17
- C. David's priestly friends are sent back to Jerusalem with the ark of God. v. 24-29
 - 1. David refuses to use the ark of God as a talisman (lucky charm). v. 25a I Sam. 4
 - 2. He submits himself to the LORD's will. v. 25b-26 22:20 Ps. 3:8
 - 3. He also asks Zadok and Abiathar to be his 'eyes' in Jerusalem. v. 27-28 17:15ff
- D. David learns that one of his closest friends, Ahithophel, has betrayed him. v. 30-31
David prays that the LORD will turn Ahithophel's counsel to foolishness.
- E. David's special friend Hushai will stay behind and play a vital role. v. 32-37 16:17
 - 1. Hushai would be of no help in the flight to exile. v. 32-33
 - 2. But he could be very useful in Jerusalem as a spy (an answer to prayer?) v. 34-36
- F. David is deceived by a false friend ('frienemy'), Ziba. 16:1-4 9:1ff 19:24-30
 - 1. Ziba comes bearing gifts while claiming that Mephibosheth, to whom such mercy had been shown, has betrayed David. v. 1-2
 - 2. David rashly judges Mephibosheth and rewards Ziba. v. 3-4 Deut. 19:15
 - 3. Later Mephibosheth contradicts Ziba's story. 19:24-30
 - 4. David's carelessness illustrates warnings in Proverbs. Pr. 18:13,15,17 25:2 29:5
- G. David spares his enemy Shimei who tries to hurt him when he is down. 16:5-13
 - 1. Shimei, a nobleman who is a relative of Saul, curses David claiming that his calamity is the LORD's judgment upon him for bloodshed against Saul. v. 5-8
 - 2. David refuses to let Abishai kill Shimei. v. 9-11 3:39 19:22
 - 3. David hopes that the LORD will reward him for his humble forbearance. v. 12
 - 4. Later, Shimei changes his tune, but in the end he is punished. 19:16ff I Ki. 2:36ff
 - 5. Who else dared curse David, the LORD's anointed one? I Sam. 17:43 Ps. 2
- H. David finally reaches the Jordan exhausted and humbled. 16:14 15:23,30 Gal. 6:7
Are the covenant promises in danger?

III. David's darkest hour foreshadows that of Christ.

- A. Jesus, the Son of David, was rejected by His own people. 15:13 Jo. 1:11 19:15 Is. 53:3
- B. There are geographic details in common. 15:23,30 Luke 19:37,41 22:39ff John 18:1
- C. In His darkest hour a few were loyal to King Jesus. Luke 23:42
- D. Jesus had some unlikely followers. Luke 7:9 19:5 Mark 7:26ff
- E. Jesus, like David, sought to protect his loyal followers. 15:20 John 18:8
- F. Jesus was wearied in His humiliation. John 19:28
- G. Jesus, like David, was betrayed by a false friend. 15:31 16:23 Ps. 55:8 41:8-9 Jo 13:18
- H. Jesus, like David, did not take revenge upon those who reviled Him, but remained silent, entrusting Himself to the Father. 16:10ff Is. 53:7 I Pe. 2:23 Acts 8:32
- I. Jesus, like David, also restrains His followers from taking revenge on His behalf. 16:10 Luke 9:54ff Mt. 26:51ff
- J. Jesus, like David, saw that His suffering was ultimately from God. 16:11 15:25-26 Isa. 53:10 Luke 22:29ff Acts 2:23
- K. Unlike David, Jesus was humiliated, not for his own sin, but for ours. 12:10 I Pe. 2:24f
- L. Jesus, like David, was brought back again to glory after His humiliation because the LORD delighted in Him. 15:25 16:12 Mt. 27:43 Acts 2:24

IV. Application: Learn from David and from Jesus the Son of David.

- A. Sin has consequences. Beware, what you sow you shall reap. 12:10-12 Gal. 6:7
- B. Trust God in the midst of your trials. Job 13:15
 - 1. In David's darkest hour he submitted to the LORD's will. 15:25-26 16:10-11
 - 2. If you have sinned, humble yourself before God and seek His mercy. Isa. 55:6ff
 - 3. God uses your trials to conform you to Christ. Ps. 119:67 Ro. 8:28-29 Heb. 12
 - 4. There is a time to grieve, but not as those who have no hope. 15:30
 - 5. Pray as David prayed. 15:31b Psalm 3 41 55
- C. It is appropriate to take action seeking answers to your prayers. 15:14,27-28,34ff
- D. True friends are a great help in times of trial. Pr. 17:17 27:9f 18:24b II Ti. 1:16-18
 - 1. Be a friend, especially to those who suffer. Pr. 27:10
 - 2. Be careful not to misread God's providence in the trials of others. 16:8 Pr. 24:17f
- E. When others insult and slander you, imitate Christ (and David) by being humble and patient. 16:10ff I Pe. 2:21-23 Ro. 12:17-21 Pr. 26:2
- F. Just because our side seems to be badly losing does not mean that God will not act. Ps. 40:1,11-14

V. Conclusion: Are you a friend to Jesus, the LORD's Anointed One? 15:15,21,37

- A. The people of Jerusalem were fair weather friends to David. 15:6,12 19:8ff
- B. Christ has many fair weather friends. Mark 4:1ff John 6:66-71
- C. David, when rejected by most, had a few friends who stood with him. 15:21
- D. Will you stand with Jesus, even when all seem to be against Him? I Pe. 4:12 Phil. 1:21
Mark 8:34ff II Co. 1:8ff 4:7ff John 12:26
- E. One day Jesus will return in glory to reward His friends and to judge His enemies.

Discussion questions

- 1. How does David illustrate the balance between prayerfully trusting God and taking action?
- 2. What are some parallels between David's humiliation and the sufferings of Christ?
- 3. What is the greatest difference between David's suffering and the suffering of Jesus?
- 4. How is Ahithophel like Judas?
- 5. How have you, like David, experienced the consequences of sin in your life? Gal. 6:7
- 6. How can you follow David's example when in the midst of trials?
- 7. Is there someone in trouble to whom you can express loyal friendship?
- 8. What do we learn from David about responding to our enemies?
- 9. How can we, like Ittai, show loyal friendship to Jesus?