

Class 7 Hushai – A friend in need (2 Sam 15,16 and 17)

Last class we looked at Absalom & Ahithophel – and their treason against David. This is the sequel!

2 Samuel 15:23, 30 – David (like Messiah) leaves Jerusalem and crosses Kidron. He is sad and anxious over the fate of the city! (John 18:1; Matthew 26:30 – Gethsemane in the Mount of Olives is on the other side of the Kidron Valley. Jesus had wept over the city that was about to reject him – Luke 19:41)

“Crossing Kidron” = “Going to Gethsemane” = “Thy will be done, Not mine”

2 Samuel 15:26 & Luke 22:42

Note: David does NOT take the Ark of the Covenant with him – he is not that presumptuous!

2 Samuel 15:31-32 – David pleads to God for help against Ahithophel, and is immediately answered by the appearance of Hushai!! Do you recognize when God works in your life – in the moment?!

2 Samuel 15:33 – the friendly jesting of two friends! (They are friends 2 Samuel 15:37; 16:16 and companions 1 Chronicles 27:33 – listed WITH Ahithophel!!)

Aside: “friend” in Hebrew is associated with pasturing and tending flocks! i.e to graze together, have fellowship (used only of Hushai to David, and Zadub [Nathan’s son] to Solomon 1 Kings 4:5).

2 Samuel 15:34-36 – David instantly has a plan. He can feel that God is working, and he works with Him.

Defeat the counsel of Ahithophel!? That’s a big ask! His counsel is acknowledged as the best ever!

2 Samuel 15:37 – Hushai obeys w/o question – what a loyal **friend**!

He does not say a word in this record – he listens and obeys

(Note: he must beat Absalom to Jerusalem and get cleaned up (v.32) or the plot will be discovered!)

Aside: Contrast to Ittai and why he stays with David 2 Samuel 15:18-22

- Men from GATH loyal to David! Philistines! Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.
- David tells him to return with his men and serve the new king! (Was he testing his loyalty?)
- Ittai echoes the words of Ruth!! (David’s great grandmother – Ruth 1:16-17)

2 Samuel 16:15-19 – Hushai puts his own life in jeopardy to save David! Absalom is suspicious. (Tension!!)

We looked at Ahithophel’s counsel last class – 2 Samuel 17:1-4 – it was good!

2 Samuel 17:5-11 – Hushai’s rebuttal. He had to speak authoritatively, passionately and with hyperbole! What a show! All the while with only David’s best interests at heart! He HAD to buy time for David!

2 Samuel 17:12-13 – wonderful, poetic language that captured Absalom’s heart and appealed to his pride!

Aside: ‘small stone’ – was Jesus thinking of this? Matthew 24:2

v. 14 – Absalom chose – but God was at work! Cp. Proverbs 19:21; 21:30 – nothing can prevail against God’s counsel!

Note: Absalom does not follow Hushai’s counsel after all! He goes to fight the **next** day (without waiting). He was delayed *just* enough to save David!

Aside: 2 Samuel 17:15-29 (Other 'friends' in **2 Sam. 17** who all played a key role)

v. 17 – Jonathan and Ahimaaz (and the unnamed wench!!)

v. 19 – the woman at the well. cp. Rahab & spies!

v. 27 – friends who came in a time of great need and filled the gap!!

Do we LOOK for opportunities to serve? And then fulfill the NEED?

2 Samuel 19:31-39 – more friends in a time of need for David. He had obviously sown these seeds of love and caring earlier, and was now reaping the benefits of those good deeds! (bread upon water, etc)

The opposite of 'burning bridges' and 'payback'. Instead, a cycle/spiral of good works! "Pay Forward!"

2 Samuel 18 gives the end of the matter. Hushai is not mentioned. He played his role and faded from the record – content to know that he had served his king and his friend.

Our attitude in serving our king & friend? Do we always need acknowledgement and praise? Do we need to be recognized and congratulated?

Conclusion: Be a friend!! Be a neighbour!! (Don't demand it or expect it from others!!)