

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Oct. 16

### MONDAY

David announces that he would not leave the banks of the Jordan River. His exact words were, "I will not take another step," not until he received confirmation that the Ark was, in fact, back where it belonged. David told Zadok who was a seer (meaning "wise one") and certainly knew that David was speaking the truth. So Zadok and Abiathar took the Ark back and stayed there with it themselves.

#### **READ: II Samuel 15:27-29**

David gives Zadok the assignment of returning to the Temple in Jerusalem and serving the Lord there while remaining loyal to King David. David chose him because of his wisdom and even explained to Zadok the basis of his choosing. When we need to appoint somebody to something like being my prayer partner or my person of accountability, how carefully we must choose that one! May we look for a person of Godly wisdom! May others - looking for that same Godly wisdom - find it in me!

### TUESDAY

Before leaving the land, walking barefoot (in humility before God) and crying, David climbed to the top of the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem. Told that Ahithophel had joined in with Absalom in his rebellion, David prayed that his advice would turn out to be foolish.

#### **READ: II Samuel 15:30-31**

David did not behave this way when hunted down by King Saul in years past. What's going on here? I'm convinced that he was crying because of the ugliness of his sin. His own sin. The consequences of that sin stayed with him. How desperately we need to see ourselves in this same way! How desperately we need to throw ourselves before the Lord and cry out for His mercy!

### WEDNESDAY

At the summit, David met Hushai the Archite who openly demonstrated his sympathy with David's plight. David told Hushai that joining with him would not help much, but if he returned to the city and volunteered to be an advisor to Absalom, it might be that he could be a great help to David, working against the other advisors.

#### **READ: II Samuel 15:32-34**

David was a wreck. Broken in body and spirit, he trudged to the summit of the Mount of Olives crying as he went. And when he got there, what did he do? He worshipped! In the middle of his tears! In between muffled sobs! He worshipped! Are you feeling blue? Really down and out? Distressed and defeated? Then worship God! Worship Him in His holiness! Worship Him in the beauty of His holiness! Worship His awesome name! Worship Him today. Tears should never hold us from worship but always drive us to it!

### THURSDAY

David explained how Hushai could help him by being a spy in the employ of Absalom. He could send word to David through the priests - the priests' sons would make good

messengers, David suggested. So Hushai went back to Jerusalem to do as David requested. And about that same time, Absalom arrived in Jerusalem.

#### **READ: II Samuel 15:35-37**

Is it not amazing how God sent just the right person to David when David needed him most! Hushai was the ideal person to counterminimize the activities of Absalom. As an advisor, Hushai would be able to give Absalom bad advice which he would follow. Or, if not that, at the least, he would report back to David on Absalom's own strategy. God sends people into our lives, as well. And sometimes He sends us into the lives of others. He gives us a mission. Today, you are on a mission from God!

### FRIDAY

On his way down from the top of the Mount of Olives, David was met by Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth (the crippled son of Jonathan whom David had previously befriended). Ziba was leading donkeys packed with food supplies, and he told David that the food was for his men, and the donkeys were for him, so that he could ride instead of walk. David asked Ziba what part Mephibosheth was playing in all this. Ziba announced that he was waiting in Jerusalem, hoping that these events might somehow result in the throne becoming his. David replied angrily, "Everything that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours!" Ziba thanked David for his generosity.

#### **READ: II Samuel 16:1-4**

In later chapters, we will read that these charges against Mephibosheth were not true. His not-so-faithful servant, Ziba, simply saw a quick way to favor and wealth. The sad thing is that David believes and rewards him on the spot. Later on, David deeply regrets his rash (and wrong) judgment. Warning: the worst we hear about someone else should be something we are slow to believe! It should be something we confirm with a certainty before accepting. We should use all means possible to discover truth and guard against believing rumors and lies. And we must make sure that while we await confirmation, we must not be a part of those rumors and lies!

### SATURDAY

As David continued to flee, he passed Bahurim. There, a man named Shimei who was somehow related to Saul, came out and proceeded to throw stones at David and his men, cursing him violently. Though he was surrounded quickly by troops, he continued to insult David, screaming out various misdeeds of the King.

#### **READ: II Samuel 16:5-8**

Shimei did not know the truth. He didn't know that David had served Saul well, loved him greatly, and mourned his death sincerely. Shimei saw him as someone who coveted the power, and took the kingdom of another. He saw him as an usurper to the throne which God had given to Saul. This story serves as an illustration of how easy it is to misjudge the heart and motives of another. That's why we need to stay out of that sort of thing completely! We don't do it well. Let's determine to leave the judging to the great Judge who knows the hearts of men.