

Sticking with the King 2 Samuel 15

Introduction:

1. Have you ever felt like your life has been turned upside down? In our text, King David's world is rocked. His throne is stolen away from him. Not by an enemy, not by a Philistine, not by a heathen idol worshiper - it is stolen by his own son, Absalom.
2. Absalom was not content to wait until his father died. He wanted the throne, and he wanted it **now!** This young man had an evil and rebellious heart, and in this chapter it fully manifests itself.
3. David was forced to flee from Jerusalem and into the wilderness (vs. 14). Many of his loyal followers fled with him (vs. 17), including a group of warriors that had attached themselves to David when he lived in the Philistine territory of Gath (vs. 18).
4. One of these men really caught my attention. His name was Ittai. This man was apparently new to David, and David decided to test his loyalty by telling him to go on back to Jerusalem (vs. 19-20). Look at Ittai's response (vs. 21). I like this guy!
5. He basically says, "Look King, I know it may mean sleeping out here in the wilderness. I know it may mean hunger and pain. I know Absalom has more to offer me materially. I know I may even die with you. But, I believe I'll just stick with the King!"
6. Wow! What a picture of the dedication and commitment that we should have for our Lord and King, Jesus Christ.
7. Today, we live in a generation of quitters. If everything isn't just perfect, people's attitude is, "I quit." People quit their marriages, quit church, quit their jobs, and many believers quit on Jesus. God, give us some Ittais - people who understand commitment and will stick with the King (Acts 21:13). How can we exhibit this type of commitment?

First, never allow Satan to steal your heart. vs. 1-6, 13

1. Absalom stole the hearts of the people (vs. 1-6). The heart is the seat of emotions and affections. Absalom won the people's hearts away from David to himself (vs. 13).
2. Did you know that the Lord wants your heart, first and foremost? Matthew 22:36-38; cf. Colossians 3:2
3. Once you are saved and trust Christ, Satan cannot have your soul eternally. But, he wants to steal your heart away from the Lord while you are on the earth. He desires to steal your affections away from the Lord and His Word. He's a deceiver. 2 Corinthians 11:3
4. Satan will use seemingly "good" people and "good" things to do it. He has his Absaloms that he uses to steal the hearts of believers today.
5. Is there something or someone that has poured cold water on your passion for Christ? Is your heart as close and tender towards the Lord as it once was? What, or who, is the Absalom in your life? Decide in your heart, "I'm going to stick with the King!"