

Sticking with the King – Part 2

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!"

Second, refuse to rebel with the crowd. vs. 7-12

1. Absalom was able to get a crowd to follow him. He had many spies (vs. 10), 200 top men in Jerusalem (vs. 11), Ahitophel - one of David's counselors and best friends (vs. 12) - and a multitude of others (end of vs. 12).
2. But remember, numbers of people doing something does not determine whether it is right or wrong. Ever hear a teenager say, "Everybody's doing it"? Then it is probably wrong!
 - Have you ever asked your teen, "Why are you praying so much?" and he responded, "Everybody's doing it"?
 - The crowd is usually wrong. Matthew 27:20, 22
3. When you stand before the Lord one day, it is not going to work to say, "Everybody was doing it." God has warned us about this. Proverbs 11:21; Exodus 23:2
4. Don't ask yourself, "Who is doing it?" or "Who isn't doing it?" Simply ask yourself, "What would my Lord and Savior have me to do?"
5. If we are going to stick with the King, we can't just follow the crowd and float downstream. We have to be willing to stand against the crowd.

Third, be willing to follow the King regardless of the circumstances. vs. 13-23

1. David warned his servants in verse 14, "We are going to have to flee, leave the comforts of the palace, head for the wilderness, etc." How did they respond?
2. Did they say, "That's not convenient. That will be a hardship. That isn't fair. That will be uncomfortable..."? Notice their response in verse 15. This is when David also tried to discourage Ittai from going with him. But, notice his response in verse 21.
3. The servants' attitude was, "Whatever we need to do for the King, we're ready to do it. Whatever we need to sacrifice, count us in." Guess what – sacrifice **did** come. vs. 23
4. Sometimes as we pass through this life, we enter wilderness times. It's part of life. These times can test our loyalty to the King. Will we go AWOL, or stick with the King?
 - Anybody can stick with the King when you're in the palace and things are plush and comfortable. But, what about when you're in the wilderness?
5. Are you going through the wilderness of family problems, depression, financial difficulties, sickness, job stress, joblessness, etc? Are you thinking about quitting? Stick with the King and obey Him regardless of the circumstances.

Fourth, remain on the mountain of worship. vs. 30-32

1. Can you imagine the physical, mental, and emotional pain that David was going through? His entire world had been turned upside down, and his own son was the reason.

2. David was a man who was hurting in so many ways. What did he do? He went to the top of Mt. Olivet, wept, and worshipped God. When you feel like you have nowhere you can turn, remember, the Lord is always there. You can talk to Him.
3. It is the only way you will make it and survive. Keep that mountain of worship and communication with God intact. Don't forsake it. You will never stick with the King if you let it go. You'll fail. You'll quit.
 - **Illustration:** Paul and Silas in prison. Acts 16:23-25

In Conclusion:

1. Let me give you one final thought about sticking with the King. Remember Ittai's words in verse 21? "*Whether in life or death, even there will thy servant be.*"
2. His commitment must have made an impression on David, because in 2 Samuel 18:2, Joab and Abishai were each commanding one third of David's army. Guess who was commanding the other third. Ittai!
3. Joab and Abishai are both mentioned after this battle, but Ittai is not. Many believe that Ittai was killed in that battle.
4. He said, "I'm going to stick with the King even if it means death," and that is exactly what he did. May God give us some "Ittais" who will be totally committed to our King, Jesus Christ.