



FUN AND FRIENDS CAMPAIGN
THE FRIENDS OF DAVID

SCRIPTURE: II Samuel 16:15-20

INTRODUCTION: David was King of Israel. His own son Absalom had decided to take over the Kingdom. Absalom goes around to the people, saying Dad's getting old and we ought to retire him and I ought to be king. He gathers together to himself a group of people and they decide to take the kingdom over. War breaks out and a battle ensues over the throne. David leaves the city and goes down to a place called Mahanaim. While he's away his armies and Absalom's armies are fighting. David's armies win that battle and Absalom his son is killed in that Battle. Then David comes back to the throne. Now, some people went with David and some people stayed with Absalom, some people decided to wait and see which way the wind would blow. This is the darkest hour of David's life with his own son rebelling and then dying. (II Sam. 16:15)

THE LESSON:

I. THE BACKGROUND:

- a. David notices the dust of battle is subsiding and he does not know who has won. Absalom or his own forces.
- b. He looks up and sees a runner coming with a message. David asks the messenger, "Is my son safe?"
- c. The messenger replied he didn't know.
- d. David sees a second messenger coming and he asks the question "Is the young man safe?" David did not ask if he was still king. He asked about his son.
- e. Cushie told David that his son had been killed in battle. David went back to the palace and became king again.
- f. Now let us look at the friends of David.

II. THE FRIENDS OF KING DAVID.

- a. Ittai – An Instinctive Friend.
 - i. He was a Philistine man.
 - ii. He had with him 600 other Philistines.
 - iii. These Philistines had been enemies of Israel but they admired David and gave themselves to David while David was in Philistine running from Saul.
 - iv. (II Sam. 15:19-21) David at this point is leaving Jerusalem to go out to Mahanaim to let his son continue his fight for David's throne.
 - v. Ittai and these 600 men chose to go with King David.
 - vi. Here is "instinctive friendship." Ittai didn't have to stop and say, "Whose side am I on?" He didn't stop and ask David who was right in this matter.
 - vii. They did not chose who was the most popular or the one that was on topside or the one who was winning. They choose David, king or no king.
 - viii. David goes back to his throne and guess who goes back with him? Ittai and his 600 men.
- b. Mephibosheth - A Phileo Friend.
 - i. Phileo means a "fondness" depending upon the object of the love and not the lover.
 - ii. David was Saul's friend in his life, at his death, and after his death. David stayed away from Saul, yet he was his friend.
 - iii. Here is a grandson of Saul who is living in poverty. (II Sam. 9:1-6) (II Sam. 19:24-30)
 - iv. You cannot lose a friend, but someone can turn on you to whom you are a friend. There is no such thing as losing a friend. A friend is born for adversity.
 - v. Many times the people you do the most for will turn on you the quickest.

- vi. Kind David was not king thus he can't help Mephibosheth like he did before. However, when David came back to the throne Mephibosheth felt led to come to King David's side.
- c. Hushai – A majority rules Friend.
 - i. (II Sam. 16:16-18) He is a whoever wins friend! Absalom asks Hushai if he was his dad's friend or his friend. His reply in essence was I am gonna go with whoever wins.
 - ii. Attai is the instinctive friend who follows David.
 - iii. Mephibosheth is the Phileo friend who stays.
 - iv. Hushai is the opportunist friend who stays and tests the wind.
- d. Shimei – A mistaken Friend.
 - i. (II Sam. 16:5-14) (II Sam. 19:16-23)
 - ii. When you become a friend you not only assume the friends of your friend, but the enemies of your friend.
- e. Ahithophel – A forsaking Friend.
 - i. He grew up with David in Bethlehem
 - ii. He was David's dear and close friend of a lifetime.
 - iii. He was the kind of a man who was the best man at the wedding.
 - iv. However, he was a forsaking friend.
- f. Barzillai – A distant Friend.
 - i. (II Sam. 19:31-33, 39) An 80 year old man who gave David some food to eat.
 - ii. It's sad that someone who is close is not a friend and someone who is a distance away is a true friend.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. David remained a friend to all of these
2. David found out who his true friends were
3. These men found out that David was their friend
4. David has an opportunity to be a true friend and to prove it.
5. Absalom missed an opportunity of a lifetime by not being a friend to his own dad.
6. Friendship is more important than kingship.
7. You choose to be a friend and Absalom chose not to be a friend.
8. Be a friend until it becomes "instinctive friendship."
9. Vows and commitments do not make a friend or keep a friendship.