

Lessons in Loyalty

2 Samuel 15

Loyalty: a strong sense of allegiance, commitment, or dedication to a person or ideal

The Negative

Absalom's Lack of Loyalty

15:1-10

Absalom's bitterness and resentment of David leads him to conspire against his father and king. Absalom schemes to undermine the people's confidence in the king by insinuating David is indifferent. He captures the hearts of the people by showing each of them great personal attention. After four years of clever planning, Absalom takes decisive action to overthrow David and become king.

Israel's Lack of Loyalty

15:11-13

To protect the success of his coup, Absalom invites 200 influential men from Jerusalem to join him. David's trusted advisor Ahithophel switches his allegiance to Absalom and joins the conspiracy. Absalom's following increases dramatically as many in Israel turn from David and join Absalom.

*Examine your loyalties through the _____ of God's Word.
Resist giving your _____ to the wrong people or ideals because of hurt,
anger, gain, or peer pressure.*

The Positive

David's Loyal Followers and Friends

15:14-23; 32-37

David's servants declare their loyalty to him even as they flee Jerusalem fearing for their lives. Despite the danger, David's army of guards and mercenary soldiers remain committed to him. Despite the risk, Ittai expresses his lifelong commitment to David and remains with him. Hushai, David's advisor, agrees to risk his life to return to Jerusalem to undermine Absalom's coup.

David's Loyalty to the LORD

15:24-31

Priests Abiathar and Zadoc follow David with the ark to assure him of God's blessings. David refuses to use the ark as a talisman and orders Zadoc to return the ark to Jerusalem. His heart of loyalty and submission to God's will is revealed as he sends the ark back where it belongs. David prays for God's intervention when he learns Ahithophel conspires against him.

*Be prepared to make _____ when called to remain loyal to
God's people and God's truth.
Even when life is hard, _____ to remain loyal to our faithful God and His plans.*

Key: lens, loyalty, sacrifices, choose

David – The King of God’s Choosing – 2 Samuel 15

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DEUTERONOMY 23:21 “If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.”

2 SAMUEL 5:1-2 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’”

1 SAMUEL 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

PSALM 119:104-105 Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

RUTH 1:16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

1 SAMUEL 4:3 And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.”

MARK 14:36 And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

PSALM 4:2-3 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

PSALM 63:9-11 But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19b-20 “Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”