

## GLUED TO GOD

### TEXT: II Sam. 17:1-23

**INTRO.:** A. Do your problems drive you father from the Lord or do they serve to cement your relationship? Do negative circumstances (loss of a loved one, a wayward child, financial setbacks, serious illness, etc.) drive you to backsliding or drive you to your knees?

**ILLUS.:** Last nite my wife & I visited the Medical College of Pa. Hospital to have prayer with Mrs. T. before her quintuple bypass, open-heart surgery. She has had bouts w/cancer, difficulties at home, 10 surgeries & now this. Is she bitter? NO! These things have made her more reliant on the Lord & sweeter as well! They have **"GLUED HER TO GOD"**!

B. David has experienced God's chastening, he is on the run, he is physically fatigued & emotionally drained, but his spirit is still strong. He has not given up on God. *"His trials only came to make him strong."* David was still trusting - in his trials. He is **"GLUED TO GOD!"**

**TRANS.:** Meanwhile, back at the palace, plans for David's death are being laid. Where is God? Absalom is seated on the royal throne. He has just physically ravished David's wives at the traitorous Ahithophel's counsel. But the crown rests uneasily on his head as long as David still lives, so he seeks more counsel...

### I. A DIVIDED OPINION: V. 1-14

#### A. Ahithophel's Counsel: v.1-4

1. Ahithophel's reputation for wise counsel was well established. **16:23**
2. Ahithophel again offers a plan to kill David which is almost assured of success:
  - a. To assemble a small army (12,000) w/Ahithophel in the lead. v.1
  - b. To catch David while he is "weary & weak-handed". **v.2a**

**NOTE:** "Weary" speaks of David's exhaustion. "Weak handed" comes from the Heb. word which means "to let drop" or to be disheartened. In boxing the idea would be "to let down your guard." David had experienced the emotional drain of his own son's rebellion & was on a forced march in the wilderness. David's troops were disorganized & weary, Ahithophel's would be fresh.

- c. To kill David. **v.2b**
- d. To demoralize the troops & bring them back to Absalom. **v.4**
- e. To unify the new King & his followers. **v.4**

**ILLUS.:** The shocking statement in v.4 that *"the saying pleased Absalom well"* casts serious doubt as to his real motive for killing Amnon - was it to avenge Tamar, or to simply remove someone bet. him & the throne?! He had no more regard for his father than for his brother. His arrogance & ambition was paramount.

#### B. Hushai's Counsel: v.5-14

**NOTE:** The answer to the question *"Where is the Lord?"* is now revealed. He even turns the heart of the ungodly to work His will. Humanly speaking Absalom had no reason to call for Hushai. **v.5,6**

1. Hushai gives 5 reasons why Ahithophel's counsel is wrong & that he should delay the attack:
  - a. The timing is wrong. "not good at this time..." **v.7**
  - b. David's men were seasoned veterans. "mighty men" **v.8a**
  - c. David's troops are fighting mad, like a bear robbed of her cubs. **v.8b**
  - d. David is not stupid enough to camp w/the people. **v.8c,9a**
  - e. Absalom's failure would demoralize his followers. **v.9b,10**

2. Hushai gives his alternative plan:

- a. Overpower David's army w/sheer numbers instead of Ahithophel's "surprise attack" plan. **v.11a**
- b. Absalom, not Ahithophel, should lead the attack. **v.11b**

**ILLUS.:** Hushai appeals first to Absalom's pride. Absalom can just see himself leading this great army. The implication is that Absalom is a better general than Ahithophel.

- c. Rather than just killing David, Absalom would be better served if he killed his loyal followers as well. **v.12,13**

**NOTE:** Hushai reasons that whether David is in the countryside or in a city the massive army thus assembled would no doubt be victorious. This plan also appealed to Absalom's lust for revenge & thirst for power & prestige. Absalom & his war council agree that Hushai's plan is best. **v.14** What they didn't know was that this plan was God's method of overthrowing the rebellion. (Even the Bible admits that Ahithophel gave sound advice! But what the best men have to offer is no match for God's power.)

Besides this is an answer to David's prayer that God would **"turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."** (15:31)

## **II. A DANGEROUS MISSION: v.15-22**

A. The Information Shared: **v.15,16**

1. Zadok & Abiathar were Hushai's link with King David.
2. Hushai is not certain if Absalom has swallowed the bait completely.

**NOTE:** We are to proceed as if everything depends on God & it does, but we are to plan as if much hinges on our activity...& it does! Example: God promises to feed His faithful, but He doesn't simply send down the manna for us, need to work for it! God's sovereignty never conflicts w/man's responsibility.

b. The Intelligence System: **v.17-21**

1. A girl passes on the information to the priests sons, Jonathan & Ahimaaz who were hiding in a cave at Enrogel, outside Jerusalem.
2. This servant-girl could easily pretend to be going for water at the fountain of Enrogel. **v.17**
3. A glitch in the system arises when a young boy sees the men & turns them in to Absalom. **v.18a**
4. But they quickly change locations & a woman hides them in a well. **v.18b,19**
5. Absalom's men come & nearly find them, but the woman lies & they return w/out David's agents being discovered. **v.20**

**QUOTE:** "Thus far (in hiding the men) the woman did well; but we know not how to justify her further concealing them with a lie. We must not do evil that good may come of it."

6. Finally the men arrive at David's headquarters to warn him. **v.21**

**NOTE:** David may have thought God had forgotten him & did not answer his prayer but God was working behind the scenes to rescue His servant. This all may have been a part of David's chastening, but it was done by a loving Father.

C. The Immediate Strategy: "a strategic withdrawal" **v.22**

**NOTE:** Under cover of darkness, David moved his followers thru the raging currents of the swollen Jordan. By morning all were safely on the other side.

## **III. A DEADLY CONCLUSION: 17:23**

A. Ahithophel's Sin:

I. David had sinned but repented & as God's child he was chastened but he clung to the Rock of his salvation thru every circumstance.

- a. David's circumstances were controlled by a loving God.
- b. David knew the God of the circumstances!

**ILLUS.:** David had lots of sorrow & lots of questions, but he knew the One in control & was not defeated. Listen to his words in **Ps.42,3,4,5,9,43:2** ***"My tears have been my meat day & night...I pour out my soul in me...Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me?...Why hast Thou forgotten me?...Why dost Thou cast me off?"*** But he also said: ***"My hope is in Thee!"***

2. Ahithophel sinned but, unlike David who was prepared to abide by the will of God, win or lose even after the gates of Jerusalem closed behind him, Ahithophel, seeking his own advancement, when he found the tide flowing against him, wend down w/it, having no Rock to cling to as the swirling waters began to engulf him..

B. Ahithophel's Suicide:

1. Ahithophel, like another traitor 10 centuries later, who also betrayed an innocent King, took his own life.
2. Unless we are **'GLUED TO GOD'** circumstances will overwhelm us.

**CONCL.:** Three principles can be gleaned from this lesson:

1. God is in control of every circumstance...good or bad!
2. Every circumstance has two sides...dark & bright!
3. Circumstances should not drive us from God but to Him!