



The Guilt of Sin: David and Bathsheeba (2 Sam 15-16)

Notes: Week Eight

Absalom's Conspiracy - [2 Samuel 15:1-12](#)

Topics: [Affections](#), [Complaining](#), [Criticism](#), [Ego](#), [Equality](#), [Flattery](#), [Government](#), [Habits](#), [Heart](#), [Influence](#), [Justice](#), [Loyalty](#), [Popularity](#), [Promises](#), [Rebellion](#), [Relationships](#), [Reputation](#), [Self-Centeredness](#), [Unfaithfulness](#), [Vows](#)

Open It

1. *What are some ways that ambitious individuals can "buy" a following?
2. What are the characteristics of the ambitious people you know?

Explore It

3. *What symbols of status and power did Absalom acquire? ([15:1](#))
4. Whom was Absalom in the habit of intercepting at the city gate? ([15:2](#))
5. *How did Absalom flatter the people he met at the gate? ([15:3](#))
6. With what "if only" statement did Absalom plant the idea of himself as leader? ([15:4](#))
7. How did Absalom treat anyone who bowed down to him? ([15:5](#))
8. *How did the Israelites react to Absalom? ([15:6](#))
9. What request did Absalom make of David when some years had passed? ([15:7-9](#))
10. When he had gone to Hebron, what did Absalom ask his supporters to do? ([15:10](#))
11. By what trick did Absalom give the appearance of having a large following? ([15:11](#))
12. Whom else did Absalom find to join his rebellion? ([15:12](#))

Get It

13. Why was the city gate a particularly good place for Absalom to ingratiate himself with the Israelites?
14. How many of Absalom's interactions with people seem to you to have been sincere?
15. *How do ambitious people manipulate the truth to their own advantage?
16. Why might it be wise to wonder about the motives of people who seem unusually helpful?
17. What circumstances make people susceptible to rebellion?
18. *How is it possible to reconcile a strong personal ambition with devotion to God?

Apply It

19. *What ambition should you examine to see if it is submitted to the will of God?
20. What steps can you take to avoid being gullible to nay-sayers and influence-gatherers?

David Flees - [2 Samuel 15:13-37](#)

Topics: [Abandon](#), [Advice](#), [Burdens](#), [Decisions](#), [Escape](#), [Faithfulness](#), [Family](#), [Foolishness](#), [Friendship](#), [Giving Up](#), [God's Will](#), [Heart](#), [Help](#), [Instructions](#), [Kindness](#), [Loyalty](#), [Mourning](#), [Moving](#), [Obedience](#), [Plans](#), [Prayer](#), [Sacrifice](#), [Sorrow](#), [Teamwork](#), [Vows](#), [Waiting](#)

Open It

1. *What would you be thinking and feeling if a sudden calamity forced you to leave your home?
2. To what person do you feel such loyalty that you would gladly endure danger along with him or her? Why?

Explore It

3. *What discouraging message came to David in Jerusalem? ([15:13](#))
4. *Why did David feel it was necessary to leave the city? ([15:14](#))
5. *How did the king's officials respond to David's orders? ([15:15](#))
6. Who were some of the specific groups who left Jerusalem with David? ([15:16-18](#))
7. Why did David offer to send one group back with his blessing? ([15:19-20](#))
8. What was Ittai's response to David's urgings? ([15:21](#))
9. What was the response of the people in the countryside when the king and his retinue passed by? ([15:23](#))
10. What did the priests do with the holy articles when David left Jerusalem? ([15:24](#))
11. Why did David send the ark of the covenant back into the city? ([15:25-26](#))
12. What did David hope to accomplish by leaving the priests inside the city? ([15:27-29](#))
13. What was the mood and appearance of David and the people with him at the Mount of Olives? ([15:30](#))
14. What was David's prayer when he learned who was advising his son Absalom? ([15:31](#))
15. Who met David at the summit of the Mount of Olives? ([15:32](#))
16. What role did David assign to his friend Hushai in order to assist his cause? ([15:33-37](#))

Get It

17. *Why was David so quick to leave Jerusalem without a fight?
18. What quality characterized David's close officials?
19. What actions of David showed that he was not ready to relinquish the kingship?
20. By letting events take their course, what was David waiting to find out from God?
21. What are the different roles that can be taken by helpful friends in time of calamity?
22. *Why is an attitude of penitence and mourning appropriate when we are confronted with trials?
23. Why might it be a good idea to ask God to search your motives and vindicate you the next time you are confronted by setbacks or problems?

Apply It

24. How can you make strategic requests of your loyal friends when you are in need?
25. To whom do you owe loyalty, even when he or she appears to be in trouble?
26. *How can you entrust yourself to God the next time you face a setback?

David, Ziba, and Shimei - [2 Samuel 16:1-14](#)

Topics: [Accusation](#), [Ambition](#), [Correction](#), [Criticism](#), [Discipline](#), [Expectations](#), [Gifts](#), [God's Will](#), [Hatred](#), [Hope](#), [Humiliation](#), [Humility](#), [Insults](#), [Interpretation](#), [Judging Others](#), [Judgment](#), [Justice](#), [Opposition](#), [Patience](#), [Persecution](#), [Perspective](#), [Punishment](#), [Rebellion](#), [Revenge](#), [Rewards](#), [Serving](#), [Swearing](#), [Toleration](#), [Wisdom](#), [Words](#)

Open It

1. In what circumstances can it be difficult to tell your friends from your enemies?
2. As a child of God, who is likely to rejoice if you stumble?
3. *How does it feel to be in a crowd that includes a heckler?

Explore It

4. Who met David with provisions as he was fleeing Jerusalem? ([16:1-2](#))
5. What difference of opinion did Ziba report between himself and Mephibosheth? ([16:3](#))
6. What was David's response to Ziba's actions? ([16:4](#))
7. *What did Shimei son of Gera do when David's entourage passed his way? ([16:5-6](#))
8. What accusation and curse did Shimei level against David? ([16:7-8](#))
9. *Why was Shimei so bitter against David? ([16:8](#))
10. What did Abishai propose to do to Shimei? ([16:9](#))
11. *How did David's view of the situation differ radically from Abishai's? ([16:10](#))
12. What order did David give concerning Shimei, and what was his reason for doing so? ([16:11](#))
13. For what outcome did David hope instead of the immediate death of the heckler? ([16:12](#))
14. What did Shimei continue to do as David and his men journeyed on? ([16:13](#))
15. What did David do when he arrived at his destination? ([16:14](#))

Get It

16. Why is it not wise to take one person's version of events at face value without hearing the other side?
17. *What character traits did David exhibit through his reaction to Shimei?
18. In what ways did David think Shimei's behavior was "understandable"?
19. *What can a person learn from his or her critics?
20. In what ways is it appropriate to distance yourself from "enemies"?
21. Would you prefer to vindicate yourself or to be vindicated by God in due time? Why?
22. How does our belief in God enable us to respond charitably toward our enemies?

Apply It

23. How do you need to distance yourself from people whose attitudes and methods conflict with your own?
24. *To what critic in your life would you like to learn to respond with silence and faith in God?