Ahithophel – The Wise Man David Feared Most

Ralph Walker · 2 Samuel 15:12–17:23

INTRODUCTION

- The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one inquired of the word of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel regarded by both David and Absalom.
- David said, Oh, Lord, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness.
- Ahithophel has nourished and nurtured his bitterness toward this king quietly until the conspiracy of Absalom.

1 The Extremes and Consequences of Revenge

Romans 12:19; Romans 12:21

- Ahithophel models the extremes and consequences of what revenge will do.
- This is not something he decides on the moment.
- Sometimes it just eats us up. It eats us up. It doesn't do anything to the other people.
- Never take your own revenge, beloved. Leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.
- Verse 21 says, Do not be overcome by evil. Be careful about taking your own revenge.
- Leave room for the vengeance of God. Careful about taking it yourself.

2 David Models the Extremes and Consequences of Sin

- David's not free of guilt in all of this.
- Sin is never small in the eyes of God. Never.
- This David that goes out of Jerusalem barefooted, weeping, he brought that on himself.
- If he had thought about all that, do you think he would have said, Yeah, I think it's worth it? Not a chance.
- We lie and don't think about the consequences of our lives. We gossip and don't think about how that hurts the person we gossiped about.

3 God Masterminds All Things to His Purposes

- God masterminds all things to his purposes. It is not about the counsel of Ahithophel. That is thwarted by God.
- Imagine what a danger he would have been to the throne of Solomon if he had offered the kind of counsel with the weight and the respect that David and Absalom have both given to him.
- Ahithophel's death and Absalom's death are a result of Ahithophel throwing his lot in with Absalom in the conspiracy.

- The best thing I can do is not to fight against that and not even to assume I know it, because I don't, but to trust it.
- He is God. He does all things well.

THE CHALLENGE

I want you to think about what revenge does to us, what sin does to us, and come this morning to the purposes of God.

MY NOTES