Ittai the Gittite – Best Supporting Actor in a Bible Story

Ralph Walker · 2 Samuel 15:13–22

INTRODUCTION

- David's life is so rich in part because of the people he was surrounded by, both good and bad.
- When they give out Oscars in the movies, they don't just give a best actor or a best actress award. They also give out best supporting actor or supporting actress.
- I want to share with you the person I think ought to be the recipient of the best supporting role in the life of David.

1 Absalom Is a Political Animal

2 Samuel 15:1

- Absalom is perhaps the most politically astute character you will meet in all the pages of the Bible.
- Number one, he's got pedigree. He is now the oldest living prince in Israel.
- Third, he is astute. He knows how to play to people.
- He provided for himself a chariot and horses and fifty men as runners before him.

2 Arise, Let Us Flee

2 Samuel 15:13–18; 1 Samuel 22:2

- A messenger came to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.
- Arise. Let us flee, for otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom.
- David is now the deposed king. He has very little power. He is a toothless lion, declawed, defanged, defeated.
- Everyone who was in distress, every one who was in debt, everyone who was discontented, gathered to him, and he became captain over them.

3 Whether for Death or for Life

2 Samuel 15:19–21

- Why will you also go with us? Return and remain with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile.
- As the Lord lives, and as my Lord the King lives, surely wherever my Lord the King may be, whether for death or for life, there also your servant will be.
- It's easy to talk about loyalty and what you'll do for somebody when there's really nothing on the line.
- Ittai says, whether for death or if we live, he is facing the reality of what's happening.

4 As the Lord Lives

2 Samuel 15:21

- The most important figure in this whole story for Ittai is God and his Lord David, who is under that God.
- This isn't about me, and it's not really about you, David. It's about God. And I believe your God's man. So I'm with you.

5 All the Little Ones Who Were With Him

2 Samuel 15:22

- So Ittai the Gittite passed over with all his men and all the little ones who were with him.
- He's making a decision for his children. What he is deciding to do here is going to affect his posterity, his heritage, his future generations.
- The little ones follow Ittai.

6 Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

John 6:66–69

- As a result, many of his disciples withdrew.
- Jesus says to the disciples, you don't want to go away also, do you?
- Do you hear David talking to Ittai? You don't have to do this. The majority of people have gone after Absalom.
- Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that you're the holy one of God.
- Thomas said, let's go die with him. Do you hear Ittai in that? Whether in death or in life, we're with you.

THE CHALLENGE

You gotta declare your loyalty to the Lord no matter what happens. That's all and the only thing the Lord will accept. Total complete surrender to his will.

MY NOTES