The Betrayal of Ahithophel

Tony Mauck · 2 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION

- I'm guessing that there are a few things in life that hurt worse than betrayal.
- And Absalom sent for Ahithophel, David's counselor, while he was offering the sacrifices, and the conspiracy was strong.
- When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey, and he arose, and he went to his home to his city, and set his house in order, and he strangled himself.

1 The Choices That We Make

- Some choices are benign. Some choices are catastrophic in their consequences, and we often do not know which are which until it is too late.
- The choice of whom you will marry is a really big choice.
- Every time we make a choice to sin against God, it is potentially more hazardous than we realize.
- Do you think for a second that when Ahithophel decided he was going to side with Absalom, that he saw the handwriting on the wall that he would be dead within months?

2 God Has Forgiven, but Ahithophel Has Not

2 Samuel 11:3; James 4:12; Ephesians 4:32

- Perhaps the disappointment of Ahithophel was the result of the fact that Bathsheba was his granddaughter.
- God has forgiven David. But God is still in fellowship with David upon his recovery. God has forgiven, but Ahithophel has not.
- Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother speaks against the law.
- God, the judge approved of David, and that needs to be enough for Ahithophel, and it needs to be enough for us.
- But where God has forgiven, we must forgive.

3 Misguided Loyalty: Beware of Joining the Posse

Proverbs 1:14–18

- Ahithophel jumped on board. It looked like the favorable place to be.
- Be careful of the side that you choose. Ideally, there should not be sides among the Lord's people.
- Throw in your lot with us, we will have one purse. And in the end it says they ambush their own lives.
- The practice of betrayal and the practice of sin will always betray you in the end.

- In the attempt to preserve his life and to go with the winning side, Ahithophel ultimately lost his.

4 Ahithophel Is a Type of Judas

Psalm 41:9

- Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, he lifted up his heel against me.
- Jesus quotes this verse at the last supper when he identifies Judas as his betrayer.
- Perhaps the story of Ahithophel is foreshadowing the greatest betrayal of all. Ahithophel is a type of Judas who would betray the Christ.
- Ahithophel hung himself. And Judas hung himself.

5 The Tragic Final Decision

- Ahithophel and Judas never saw the end of their choice, or they never would have made it.
- And that is true, regardless of whatever it is that you choose over the Lord. I've called it the shrine of foolish choice.
- Remember your creator in the days of your youth before the evil days come.
- Fear God and keep his commandments, because this applies to every person. God will bring every matter into judgment.

THE CHALLENGE

What does your attitude regard material things testify about you? Is what they testify going to be that you are loyal to the Lord and his will?

MY NOTES