The Life of



Sunday Nights, Winter 2020-21

The Life of



The Friends You Remember



The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote: Friendship is a <u>sheltering tree</u>.



David's "Sheltering Trees"

2 Samuel 15:14

¹⁴ David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise and let us flee, for otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom. Go in haste, or he will overtake us quickly and bring down calamity on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

2 Samuel 15:17-18

- ¹⁷ The king went out and all the people with him, and they stopped at the last house.
- ¹⁸ Now all his servants passed on beside him, all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had come with him from Gath, passed on before the king.



1) Ittai

¹⁹ Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why will you also go with us? Return and remain with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile; *return* to your own place.

²⁰ You came *only* yesterday, and shall I today make you wander with us, while I go where I will? Return and take back your brothers; mercy and truth be with you."

²¹ But Ittai answered the king and said, "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."

²² Therefore David said to Ittai, "Go and pass over." So Ittai the Gittite passed over with all his men and all the little ones who *were* with him.

2 Samuel 15:23

²³ While all the country was weeping with a loud voice, all the people passed over. The king also passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over toward the way of the wilderness.



2) Zadok and Abiathar

²⁴ Now behold, Zadok also came, and all the Levites with him carrying the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar came up until all the people had finished passing from the city.

- ²⁵ The king said to Zadok, "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the sight of the LORD, then He will bring me back again and show me both it and His habitation.
- ²⁶ But if He should say thus, 'I have no delight in you,' behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."

²⁷ The king said also to Zadok the priest, "Are you *not* a seer? Return to the city in peace and your two sons with you, your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

- ²⁸ See, I am going to wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me."
- ²⁹ Therefore Zadok and Abiathar returned the ark of God to Jerusalem and remained there.

2 Samuel 15:30

³⁰ And David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went.



3) <u>Hushai</u>

2 Samuel <u>15:31-34</u>

³¹ Now someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness."

2 Samuel <u>15:31-34</u>

³² It happened as David was coming to the summit, where God was worshiped, that behold, Hushai the Archite met him with his coat torn and dust on his head.

2 Samuel <u>15:31-34</u>

³⁴ But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant in time past, so I will now be your servant,' then you can thwart the counsel of Ahithophel for me.



4) Friends at Mahanaim

²⁷ Now when David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim,

- ²⁸ brought beds, basins, pottery, wheat, barley, flour, parched *grain*, beans, lentils, parched *seeds*,
- honey, curds, sheep, and cheese of the herd, for David and for the people who were with him, to eat; for they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."



5) <u>Joab</u>

⁴The king covered his face and cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵ Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, "Today you have covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who today have saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives, and the lives of your concubines,

⁶ by loving those who hate you, and by hating those who love you. For you have shown today that princes and servants are nothing to you; for I know this day that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased.

⁷ Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go out, surely not a man will pass the night with you, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now."



Friendship Passages to Live By

Proverbs 18:24

²⁴ A man of *too many* friends *comes* to ruin,
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.



Loyalty

Proverbs 27:17

¹⁷ Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.



Make you better

Romans 12:15

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.



On Your Team

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,
- ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- ⁸ Love never fails; ...



Sacrificial Love

Proverbs 27:6

⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.



Tell the truth

John 15:13

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:15

¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but <u>I have called you friends</u>, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.