

SERMON NOTES

“Ahithophel . . . A Case Study in Bitterness”

- For the past couple of weeks we have looked at Psalms that arose from David’s experience with Absalom and Ahithophel. Today we want to see what made Ahithophel betray David . . . bitterness.

I. The _____ of Bitterness

- Definition: Bitterness is an unresolved violation of your justice system.
- If there is bitterness, it can go 2 ways:
 1. _____ where you have a problem with people involved.
 2. _____ where you have a real problem with God.

(Exodus 15:22-25)

- What is God’s answer to bitterness? Bring the tree into the situation!

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree . . .” 1 Peter 2:24 KJV

II. The _____ of Bitterness

A. the _____ bitterness seeks (II Samuel 15:10-12)

- When leading a coup, who does Absalom seek out? Ahithophel, another bitter man. Bitter people seek out other bitter people.
- (II Samuel 15:31) - David fled Jerusalem because he did not want to fight his son and learns Ahithophel is with him.
(II Samuel 15:32-34) - Hushai comes to help
(II Samuel 16:20) - Absalom asks “Now what?”
(II Samuel 16:21) - Here’s the plan
(II Samuel 16:22) - Notice “the roof”; where did he get that idea? (II Samuel 12:11-12)
(II Samuel 16:23) - this could be a perplexing verse

B. the _____ bitterness seeks (II Samuel 17:1-2)

“You’re familiar with the command to the ancients, ‘Do not murder.’ I’m telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder.” Matthew 5:21-22 The Message

III. The _____ of Bitterness

- “Bitterness is the poison we swallow in our effort to harm the one who wronged us.” Unknown
- (II Samuel 23:34) Ahithophel’s son is one of David’s mighty men!
Note: Whatever made Ahithophel bitter made his son better!

A. It _____

- In the same situation, some will end up bitter while others end up better. And that is up to you!! You can take it to the tree or you can take it to the grave.

B. It _____ (II Samuel 11:2-3)

- Now it all makes sense! He was Bathsheba’s grandfather. Somewhere along the line Eliam let it go and it made him a mighty man but it destroyed Ahithophel.
- It robbed Ahithophel of some huge blessings. What will you miss in your life because of bitterness that you won’t let go of??