

“The Three Enemies of Absalom”
2 Samuel 16:15-7:4

*“For your servant (Absalom) vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, ‘If the **LORD** will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the LORD.’ ” (2 Samuel 15:8)*

*“But if you (**Hushai**) 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 now I will be your servant,’ then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.” (2 Samuel 15:34)*

*“Now in those days the counsel that **Ahithophel** gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.” (2 Samuel 16:23)*

- (2 Samuel 16:15-19) An answer to David’s **PRAYER** and an answer to Absalom’s **PRIDE**.
 - “The **pride** of your heart has **deceived** you....who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to the ground?’ ” (Obadiah 1:3)
 - Hushai was an answer to David’s humble prayer (2 Samuel 15:30-31). David’s only hope was that God would act on his behalf.
 - Absalom has no loyalty to God or God’s king; compare this with David and Saul (1 Samuel 24:4-7; 26:8-12).

“And Hushai said to Absalom, ‘No, for whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen (2 Samuel 5:1-5), his (David) I will be, and with him (David) I will remain (loyal; 2 Samuel 15:37). And again, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son (Absalom)? As I have served your father (in his presence), so I will serve you (in your presence).’ ” (2 Samuel 16:18-19)

- (2 Samuel 16:20-23) The power of **COMFORTABLE** counsel and **UNCOMFORTABLE** counsel.
 - Ahithophel’s fleshly counsel would be the means in which God would bring about Nathan’s prophecy (2 Samuel 12:11).
 - Ahithophel was Absalom’s enemy by giving him this counsel. He was encouraging Absalom to sin against his father (1 Corinthians 5:1), his father’s wives (Leviticus 20:11), and most importantly, the LORD.
 - “Thus says the LORD: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.’ ” (Jeremiah 17:5).
 - “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20-21)
- (2 Samuel 17:1-4) And the advice **SEEMED RIGHT** in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.
 - If God is for us, it doesn’t matter who is against us or how weak we are. For it is never our strength that gives us victory (Romans 8:31-38).

Announcements:

★**BAPTISMS:** Our next Baptism Service will be THIS Sunday, January 21st. If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about baptism, please see Pastor Jeremy or one of the other Elders.

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of January we are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats. For more information about Heartbeats and what they do, please see the board in the back of the sanctuary. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for Heartbeats.

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** One week from Sunday, on January 28th, we will be having our first Church Night of Prayer from 5:30-7pm. If you would like to participate in this, we have a sign-up list on the table in the entryway. We have that hour and a half broken up into 15 minute increments, you are welcome to sign up for as many time slots as you would like to. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body.