

Lost In The Credits

Ittai

(2 Samuel 15:18-22)

- Introduction:
1. Not many people would recognize the name, "Ittai."
 2. Yet, while he had a "minor" role in the biblical narrative, there are challenging lessons to glean from his brief "on screen appearance."

I. Background & Historical Setting

- A. Absalom is setting the stage to rebel against his father (2 Samuel 15:6).
- B. Through his manipulation, he won the hearts of the people and King David had to flee for his life.
- C. As he was fleeing, we are introduced to a man by the name of Ittai.
- D. Ittai was a Gittite - a person from the Philistine city of Gath.
- E. He had migrated to Jerusalem, just the day before.
- F. David tried to get him to stay in Jerusalem - basically saying, "This isn't your fight."
- G. But Ittai was ready to follow David wherever he led them.
- H. David promoted Ittai to a trusted captain (2 Samuel 18:2).

II. Practical Lessons

- A. Don't judge a man by where he's from.
 1. Ittai was from Gath, a Philistine city, the home of Goliath.
 2. Jesus was dismissed by such a standard (John 7:45-52).
 - a. No prophet has arisen out of Galilee.
 - b. They were wrong about this (2 Kings 14:25).
 3. Can any good thing come out of Nazareth (John 1:46).
 4. We tend to "size people up" - by background, skin color, nation, education, etc.
 5. God's grace is greater than our sin (1 Timothy 1:12-16).
- B. You didn't have to be a Jew to be a believer.
 1. (2 Samuel 15:21) Ittai makes an oath involving God - Jehovah.
 2. God was interested in the nations.
 3. He loved all people, not just the Jews.
 4. It's easier for some people to come to faith than others. Those who "worked" for it, often have a greater degree of loyalty.
- C. Loyalty can be costly.
 1. (2 Samuel 15:19-21).
 2. Lose your job (John 12:42; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 1:1).
 3. Lose a friend (Galatians 2:14 - Paul & Peter; Galatians 4:16).
 4. Lose your life (Mark 6:14-29 - John the Baptist).
 5. He gave up his ease - they were on the road again!
 6. He recognized some things are more important than life, itself.
- D. Family came second.
 1. (2 Samuel 15:21-22).
 2. He had little ones among his number.
 3. So many people put family before the Lord.