

## The Wisdom of Men

2 Samuel 16:1-17:29

17 November 2013

I. Ziba (16:1-4)

II. Shimei (16:5-14)

- A. Curses and symbolically executes David with stones.
- B. David's response (11b-12): this is what humility looks like.

III. Hushai comes into Absalom's presence (16:15-19)

- A. An ambiguous statement of loyalty!
- B. *We don't yet know* whether Hushai is on David's side.

IV. Ahithophel's first advice (16:20-21)

V. Absalom and David's concubines (16:22-23)

- A. Absalom follows his counsel, in a tent on the palace rooftop (see 2 Samuel 12:11-12).

VI. Ahithophel's second advice (17:1-4)

- A. Let Ahithophel gather a force of 12,000 and attack David a.s.a.p.
- B. At the moment, David and his small group are very vulnerable.

VII. Hushai's "better" idea (17:5-14): gather "all Israel"

VIII. Jonathan and Ahimaaz (17:15-20): spies (see Joshua 2)

IX. Setting the stage (17:23-29)

- A. Ahithophel's fate (see 2 Samuel 15:31)
- B. Amasa the general
- C. Unexpected help on the far side of the Jordan River

X. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

- A. Wordly wisdom: Identify what you want, and use your brain to get it.
- B. Be suspicious of your own wisdom.
- C. Divine wisdom: Do what God requires of you, even if you cannot see how it will work out.  
(see 15:31; Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; Isaiah 11:2; James 3:13-18; John 11:49-50; 1 Corinthians 1:20-21)
- D. God has displayed *his* wisdom.