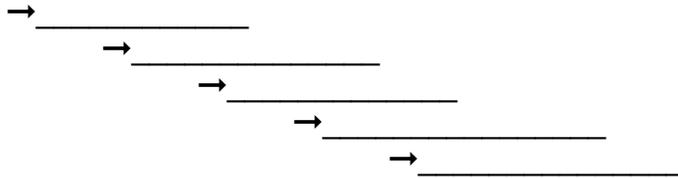


The Freedom of Forgiveness
2 Samuel 11-17
Pastor Roy Halberg

→How do you respond when someone wrongs you?"
the path most of us follow is a downward stairway . . .



→Do you agree or disagree:

1. "The hardest thing God asks me to do as a Christian is to forgive someone who has wronged me"
2. "Failure to forgive will haunt you all of your life"

→What happens in a person's life who can't/won't forgive? cf. Ephesians 4:26-27

Consider the life and experience of Ahithophel . . .

1. The Background to Ahithophel's story (2 Samuel 11-15)

- A. David's _____ (ch 11)
- B. Nathan's _____ (ch 12)
- C. Amnon's _____ (ch 13)
- D. Absalom's _____ (ch 14)
- E. Absalom's _____ (ch 15)

2. The Betrayal of David by Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15-17)

- A. His _____ - TRUSTED FRIEND/CONFIDANTE (16:23; 1 Chronicles 27:33)
- B. His _____ to Absalom- A GREAT SURPRISE (15:12, 31 cf Psalm 55:12-14)
- C. His _____ - A SHOCKING INSIGHT INTO HIS LIFE (16:20-17:4)
- D. His _____ - HE COMMITS SUICIDE (17:23)

→My question is WHY?????

- Why did Ahithophel's life go in this direction?
- Why the betrayal? What caused his defection?
- Why such deep bitterness and hatred?

3. The bitterness that stalks us all

(Four key principles that will change your life)

A. I must recognize that failure to forgive leads to a _____

B. I must be committed to a _____
before the offense occurs (Col 3:12-13; Eph 4:32)

C. I must consider the _____

Psalm 103:12

Isaiah 38:17

Micah 7:19

D. I must acknowledge my own _____ (Gal 6:1-3)

→Taking it home . . .So what? Now what?

1. Is there someone that _____?

2. Where are you on the downward stairway?

→OFFENSE →RESENTMENT →HATRED →GRUDGE →REVENGE

3. Don't need to forgive anyone? GREAT!

Will you commit yourself today to a _____ forgiveness?