

The Trap Is Set

2 Samuel 16:15 – 17:25

Introduction

- v. 15 the coast was clear – none oppose
he must be elated . . . he has not fired a shot
- v. 16 2 leading politicians convene . . . “he must be sure of success”
- v. 17 – 19 Hushai gains access thru flattery
Absalom bites . . .
* How vulnerable men are to error who have gained their position not thru truth but thru fleshly wisdom
- v. 20 Ahithophel? Famous because of his craft but v.23? No way
1. Men of the world are easily given this title by an ignorant populace. Fame swelled him beyond what he was.
2. Those who **excel** in worldly wisdom may be **destitute** when they enter into areas of right and wrong
3. and may even **ruin** their own lives through error
- v. 21 Why? When Reuben . . .? Lev 20:11 . . .? I Cor. 5:1 . . .?
but with Ahithophel “honesty” is not the best policy
He thinks that the end justifies
- The decision is . . . 1. an indication of Absalom’s intent to rule all
(thus a sense of prosperity)
and 2. he will never make peace
(thus a sense of security)
★ Ahithophel knows what the public wants
- v. 22 And Absalom has itching ears
but 2 Sam. 12:11 is fulfilled
- CH. 17
v. 1 – 14 Two plans: - caution, mercy, unity → Ahithophel
- glory, might, vengeance → Hushai

- v. 14 God is sovereign!!
using man’s own will and sin to set his trap
his own success to make him blind
- It is a “terrifying thing to fall into the hand of the living God”
when you own choices are adversarial to you
- v. 15– 21 • word is sent by a “wench” . . . or a “young women”
- But a young man, loyal to Absalom, informed
 - they are saved by an older couple, loyal to the king
- v. 23 Why? “I am fighting against God” . . .
- v. 24 “Double-camp” When Jacob fled he was greeted by angels to protect him.
- v. 25 Again God sustains his sustains.
- Thus the young, middle aged and elderly have ministered to David. Men and women, single and married
- 3 great men: A gentile
A faithful Jew
An old rancher
- It takes all kinds who will risk their lives because of loyalty

Conclusion

Every step along the way
good men and evil men
with holy or profane motives-
David finds provision and protection, though indirect,
through men’s actions
and right when he needs it!
God is there . . . “Thou O Lord art a shield about me.”