

THE LIFE OF DAVID

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AFTER  
GOD'S  
HEART

“Back into the Wild”  
2 Samuel 15-16



Maximus



Marcus  
Aurelius



Commodus





# Patrick McCormick

We live in a world in which sin is a deadly and contagious virus ... Parents pass sin onto their children, teachers instruct their pupils in it, governments lead their peoples into it. From generation to generation ... sin is passed from one heart to another like a deadly and insidious contagion. ... The heart of the tragedy here is that in some way the sins of the parents have



# Patrick McCormick

become the sins of the children ... the children imitate their parents in their idolatry, their injustice ... The new and fresh generations are in some way tainted with all of the malice and wickedness of their elders. When this generation dies off evil will not die with it, but will be passed on to the next generation.



# David Wolpe

A vain and self-involved child meets an ineffective parent. David is unable to provide the sort of consistent, steady, boundaried, but deep love that is a parent's job. With Amnon he was vastly overindulgent. With Tamar he was seemingly absent. With Absalom he is repeatedly harsh and remote.



## 2 Samuel 15:10-12

Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.' "

Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter.

## 2 Samuel 15:10-12

While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.





## 2 Samuel 15:13-18

A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom."

Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us



## 2 Samuel 15:13-18

and put the city to the sword.”

The king’s officials answered him, “Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses.”

The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace. So the king set out,



## 2 Samuel 15:13-18

with all the people following him, and they halted at the edge of the city. All his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king.

Mediterranean  
Sea

Jordan  
River

Jericho

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Hebron

Dead  
Sea

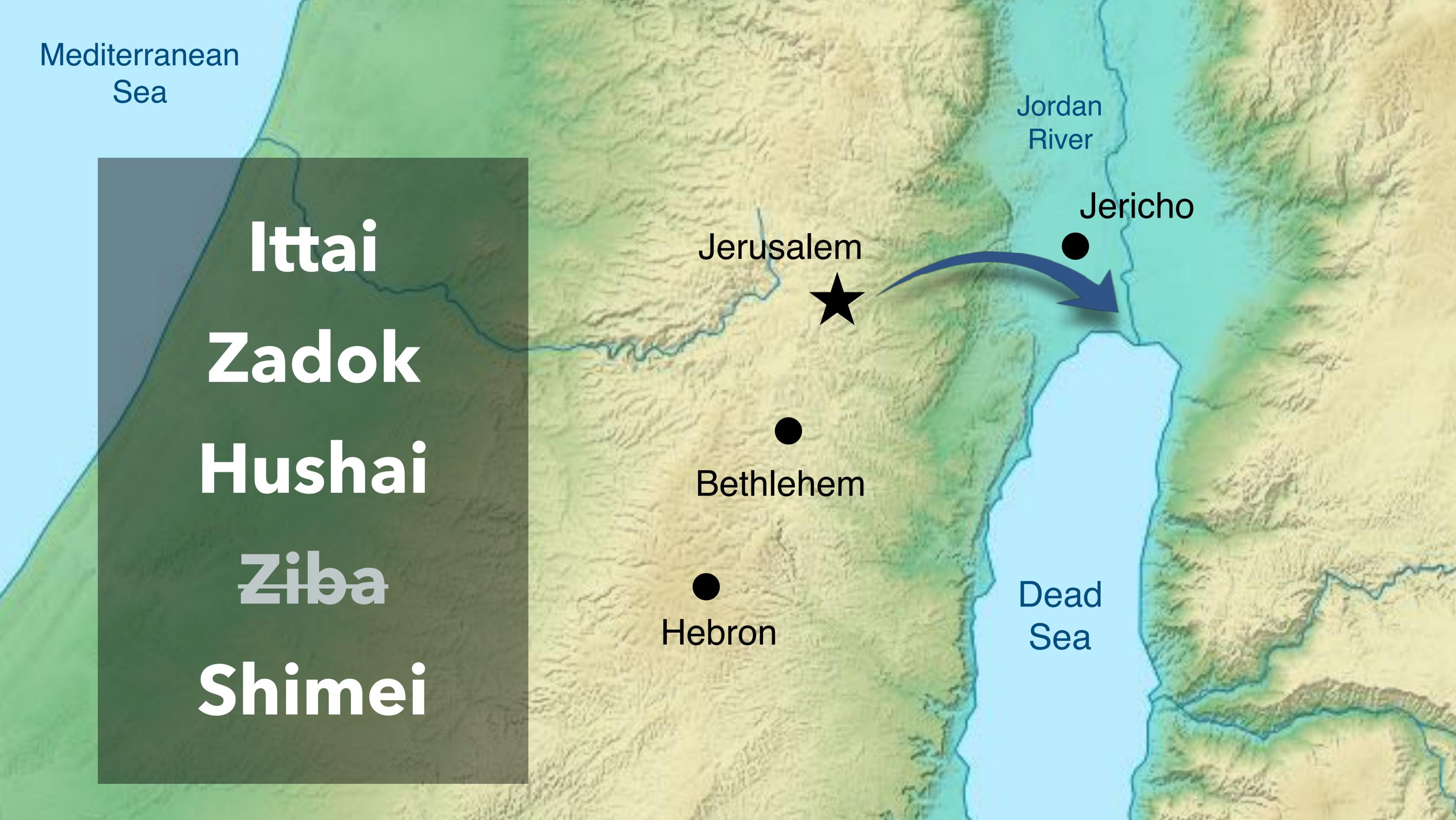
**Ittai**

**Zadok**

**Hushai**

**Ziba**

**Shimei**





**Ittai**

Zadok

Hushai

~~Ziba~~

Shimei



## 2 Samuel 15:19-22

The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland. You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your people with you. May the LORD show you kindness and faithfulness."



## 2 Samuel 15:19-22

But Ittai replied to the king, "As surely as the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be."

David said to Ittai, "Go ahead, march on." So Ittai the Gittite marched on with all his men and the families that were with him.



## 2 Samuel 15:23

The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people **moved on toward the wilderness.**



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Getting everything you  
want is the worst thing  
that can happen to  
you.





Ittai

**Zadok**

Hushai

~~Ziba~~

Shimei



## 2 Samuel 15:24-26

Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city.

Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD'S eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him."



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## 2 Samuel 15:30-31

But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "LORD, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness."



# Psalm 55:1-2, 12-14

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught ... If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers.



# Psalm 53:1-6

A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom. LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.



Ittai

Zadok

**Hushai**

~~Ziba~~

Shimei



## 2 Samuel 15:32-37

When David arrived at the summit, where people used to worship God, Hushai the Arkite was there to meet him, his robe torn and dust on his head.

David said to him, "If you go with me, you will be a burden to me. But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, 'Your Majesty, I will be your servant; I was your father's servant in the past, but now I will be your servant,' then you can help me by frustrating Ahithophel's advice. Won't the priests



## 2 Samuel 15:32-37

Zadok and Abiathar be there with you? Tell them anything you hear in the king's palace. Their two sons, Ahimaaz son of Zadok and Jonathan son of Abiathar, are there with them. Send them to me with anything you hear."

So Hushai, David's confidant, arrived at Jerusalem as Absalom was entering the city.

We need wisdom to discern when we must act and when we must wait on God.





Ittai

Zadok

Hushai

~~Ziba~~

**Shimei**



## 2 Samuel 16:5-14

As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left.

As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of



## 2 Samuel 16:5-14

Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!”

Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head.”

But the king said, “What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because



## 2 Samuel 16:5-14

the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?' "

David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today."



## 2 Samuel 16:5-14

So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt. The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.

Even a flawed messenger  
may have truth about  
ourselves that we need  
to hear.





## 2 Samuel 16:5-12

It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me **his covenant blessing** instead of his curse today."

People who attack and criticize us always have mixed motives, but God's motive is always love.



When you experience  
struggles, conflicts, and  
criticisms always listen  
for God's voice.





# Eugene Peterson

Suffering doesn't always, or easily, make us better. It often makes us worse. It could have made David worse. He could have become defiant and bitter and lonely. But he didn't. He became again what we now look back on as characteristically David: humble, prayerful, and compassionate.

# Hebrews 13:5

God has said, "Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you."



