

GALLIMAUFRY III ITTAI & BARZILLAI

²⁷ And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, ²⁸ Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse, ²⁹ And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

II Samuel 17:27-29

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

I. The Flocking of Friendship

- A. Friends are not optional; they are essential.
- B. Friends are not automatic; they must be cultivated.
- C. Friends are not neutral; they impact our lives.
- D. Friendship comes in varying degrees. Confidants (Those there for you), Constituents (Those there for what you're for), Comrades (Those there because you have a common enemy) (II Samuel 15:19-22)

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.” ²¹ 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.” ²² 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.

II. David’s condition in exile

- A. He is awash in guilt.
- B. His home is shattered.
- C. He has forfeited his respect as an authority and a leader.
- D. Consequences have come home to roost. David is personally, domestically, and politically ruined.
- E. David’s son, Absalom, has stolen the hearts of the people. David is on the run.
- F. David doesn’t need a sermon, a lecture, a seminar, or counseling. He needs a friend.

III. Ittai the Gittite [An anointed outsider]

- A. Ittai the Gittite is a Philistine from Goliath’s home city of Gath.
- B. His “with-me-ness” transcends national, racial, religious, and historical boundaries.
- C. He shares neither race, tribe, nor family name with David.

IV. Barzillai - strong

- A. Barzillai was an aged, venerable, hospitable, Highland chief.
- B. Alexander Whyte marks Barzillai's characteristics as loyalty, courtesy, and hospitality.

V. Three lessons from Barzillai

- A. Hospitality has no expiration date.
- B. We need to meet physical needs before we meet spiritual needs. (I John 3:17)

¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

- C. We need to be future-minded.

VI. Barzillai's excuses (II Samuel 19:31-39)

³¹ Barzillai the Gileadite also came down from Rogelim to cross the Jordan with the king and to send him on his way from there. ³² Now Barzillai was very old, eighty years of age. He had provided for the king during his stay in Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. ³³ The king said to Barzillai, "Cross over with me and stay with me in Jerusalem, and I will provide for you." ³⁴ But Barzillai answered the king, "How many more years will I live, that I should go up to Jerusalem with the king? ³⁵ I am now eighty years old. Can I tell the difference between what is enjoyable and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats and drinks? Can I still hear the voices of male and female singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? ³⁶ Your

servant will cross over the Jordan with the king for a short distance, but why should the king reward me in this way? ³⁷ Let your servant return, that I may die in my own town near the tomb of my father and mother. But here is your servant Kimham. Let him cross over with my lord the king. Do for him whatever you wish.” ³⁸ The king said, “Kimham shall cross over with me, and I will do for him whatever you wish. And anything you desire from me I will do for you.” ³⁹ So all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the king crossed over. The king kissed Barzillai and bid him farewell, and Barzillai returned to his home.

- A. I’m too old.
- B. It’s too much.
- C. I’m too weak.
- D. It’s too far.

VII. Barzillai’s legacy

- A. Barzillai gave his legacy to his son Chimham - longing
- B. David bestowed a property upon him in Bethlehem that became an inn.
- C. 400 years later, during the time of Jeremiah, this place existed. (Jeremiah 41:17)

¹⁷ And they went on, stopping at Geruth Kimham near Bethlehem on their way to Egypt

- D. David’s deathbed command (I Kings 2:7)

⁷ “But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.