

The Sustaining Power of Friendship

2 Samuel 15, 17, 19

❑ David found himself one step from ruin (15:1-17)

❑ Five friends who supported David during his troubles

Ittai the Gittite (15:18-21) – a friend who stood with David when everyone turned against him

Zadok & Abiathar (15:24-28) – friends who brought God to David

Hushai the Archite (15:32-37) – a friend who protected David by frustrating his enemies

Shobi, Machir, & Barzillai (17:27-29) friends who provided a refuge in the wilderness

Joab (19:1-7) a friend who was willing to confront David and tell him the truth

❑ Principles of friendship

Friends are essential, not optional. Make them a priority.

Friends must be cultivated; they don't grow automatically. Grow them carefully.

Friends impact our lives for good or bad. Choose them wisely.

Friendships vary in degrees from acquaintances to casual friends to close friends to intimate friends. Cultivate some in each dimension.