

WALKING IN & WALKING OUT

2 SAMUEL 15-16 | ERIC SIMPSON | OCTOBER 13, 2019

"I had to think: who might have room for me? Who isn't taken? I had to shield myself from the hazards of rejection, send out just enough signals but not too many...Walking up and down the halls I studied students at their lockers, tried on attitudes, sat front, back, middle on the bus. I strategized, adapted, hoped (without disclosing hope) that someone out there was looking too, that something about me would inspire. One can go one's whole life without a friend; I realized that. There's the possibility of perpetual loneliness." – Beth Kephart

A friend walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

Who's walking in?

➤ **Ittai the Gittite** - "I'm with you no matter what."

2 Samuel 15:19-21

19 The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us?...20 shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you." 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."

➤ **Hushai** - "I'm here to help, what do you need?"

2 Samuel 15:30,32

30 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. 32 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.

Who's walking out?

➤ **Ahithophel** - the friend who used to be

Ahithophel was in David's trusted inner-circle—a cabinet member who was also a friend, strategic advisor, and spiritual leader.

2 Samuel 16:23

Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel's advice.

2 Samuel 15:31

Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "O LORD, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness."

Psalms 55:12-14

12 If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. 13 But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, 14 with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.