

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

October 27, 2019

Loyalty Is a Choice

Few people have heard of Ittai. If you had asked me yesterday about him, I would have drawn a blank. It probably doesn't help much to point out that he was a Philistine mercenary living when David was king of Israel, or that he was from Gath, the city of Goliath (*it's possible he was in the Philistine army when David killed Goliath*). Yet, despite being a foreign soldier hired to serve in David's army, we can learn a valuable lesson from Ittai.

The setting is when Absalom, David's son, had conspired a coup to take over as king of Israel. It got to the point where David had to run for his life. Fleeing with him were his family and his officials in Jerusalem. Among those protecting him in his escape were 600 Gittites led by Ittai.

At this point David encouraged Ittai to go back and stay with Absalom. He reasoned, "*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 countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you*" (2 Samuel 15:20).

Most mercenaries would have jumped at the chance. If you are fighting for money you certainly don't want to be on the losing side! The only thing that mercenaries are loyal to is money.

The cause doesn't matter. Mercenaries fight for the people who will pay them the most.

But Ittai was not like most mercenaries. There was something more important to him than money. Ittai chose to be loyal to David regardless of the circumstances. His answer to David is classic: "... *wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be*" (**2 Samuel 15:21**).

Ittai chose to be loyal to David. He was under no obligation to stay. He had nothing to expect as a reward by staying. They were fleeing for their lives when he made his choice. Yet, he chose to be loyal to David. As it turned out, Absalom's coup failed and David remained king. David remembered Ittai's loyalty and made him commander over one third of David's army (**2 Samuel 18:2**).

We are living in a time when loyalty is not common. Just think about how loyal employers/employees are these days, or the commitment to marriage, or to our financial obligations. It doesn't take much for us to cut our losses and run.

How strong is your loyalty to God? Have you chosen to be loyal to your King "*whether it means life or death*," reward or failure? There are Christians who are like mercenaries, serving the one who will pay the most. But God is looking for people who choose to be loyal and committed (**1 Cor. 15:58**) because they love Him.

— Joe Chesser

A Special Relationship

We need a community around us. Years ago, when speaker of the house Sam Rayburn heard that he had terminal cancer, he shocked everyone when he announced that he was going back to his small town, Bonham, Texas. Everyone said to him: They've got the finest facilities in Washington, D. C., why go back to that little town. Rayburn's words have been quoted so often that some of you have probably heard them. He said: "Because in Bonham, Texas, they know if you're sick and they care when you die." We need community.

The Lord's church provides a special community. Consider the words of Paul, "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit...And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (1 Cor. 12:12-13, 26-27). Christians form a special community, a family - the body of Christ. Loving fellow Christians "know if you're sick and care when you die." Are you a faithful member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)?

— Tom Moore

Report 12th Annual Singing

It was a cold and rainy day for any kind of gathering, but we still had approximately 75 people show up for our singing. At least 16 congregations were listed on the signup sheet. The singing was fantastic and the fellowship was grand as well. A special thanks goes to those ladies that prepared food and a special, special thanks to those who brought pie. Of course, we would not forget the guys who did the set up. Thank you all and also all those who attended. It was super

Return To Sand Creek lessons about the famous Sand Creek case delivered by Ralph Gilmore Ph.D on the grounds of the historic Sand Creek Church, 2071 E. 1750 North Rd, Windsor, IL - Saturday, Nov 2, 10:00 -12 - lunch in Sullivan. Sponsored by the Highway Church of Christ in Sullivan.

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Nutri Grain Bars (any flavor) Breakfast bars (any kind) Protein bars, Pringles, Small containers of chips (no bags)

Reading : TBS

NEXT WEEK : (November 3, 2019)

Song Leader : Stan

Scripture Reader : Larry

Table & Announcements : Tim

Time Change Next Week: Turn your clocks back this coming Saturday night, November 2, 2019.

Sympathy : .

We extend our most sincere sympathy to the Rankin family up-on the loss of Pete's Niece, Shelly Kruger. Shelly passed away early Monday morning (10-21-19). The family thanks you for your thoughts and prayers on her behalf.

Prayer List : .

Andy Nichols : He has been diagnosis with a-fib, and is now at home where he has started a course of treatments/meds..

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother was briefly hospitalized this week, but is now home. However, she is still wheelchair bound due to leg pain. She'll get results from MRI on Monday.

Betty Lowe : Will find out about treatment next Weds., Nov. 6

Ruby Bradd : The 2 yr old daughter of Stephen & Ranae is battling a very aggressive form of cancer.

Bob Wearherford : The father-in-law of Jason Uphoff is holding hi own, but we have no update.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Rm. 603 in Alzheimer's unit at the Manor.

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law is holding his own.

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. His condition is deteriorating.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !