

No. 29 Imitate Loyal Ones (Symposium)
 -Hushai

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes an interview. Follow instructions in assignment letter]

BEING LOYAL-NOT ALWAYS EASY (3 min.)

Being loyal will prompt us to be obedient, even if we find a task difficult, unpleasant, or distasteful

This happened to Hushai, a loyal friend of King David

Please open to 2 Samuel 15:30-37, and imagine how this account may have taken place

David, along with a small group of close companions, is fleeing for his life, head covered, weeping, and out of breath from climbing to the summit of the Mount of Olives

Hushai, with his robe ripped apart and dirt on his head, meets David
Hushai laments the tragic events and the treason committed by Absalom and some of David's close associates

He vows to follow David to death if necessary

David asks Hushai to return to Jerusalem to frustrate Ahithophel's counsel

Indignant, Hushai says: 'You want me to pretend to be a friend to those traitors?'

David says: 'I need your help. I begged Jehovah to frustrate Ahithophel's counsel, and you are the answer to my prayer'

Hushai relents and says he will return

David says: 'May Jehovah be with you, my friend'

Can you imagine the challenge confronting Hushai?

Not only is he being asked to sacrifice his own preference but his assignment calls for great courage and thinking ability

If he fails to convince Absalom, Hushai could be killed

CULTIVATE SHREWDNESS (2 min.)

Hushai proved his loyalty to Jehovah's anointed representative

He returned to Jerusalem and skillfully pretended to be a friend to the traitors

He displayed shrewdness in giving advice that he knew would lead to their failure [Summarize 2 Samuel 16:15-19]

[Read 2 Samuel 17:14] David's prayer was answered; Ahithophel's counsel was frustrated when Absalom adopted Hushai's advice

How might we show loyalty and skill like that of Hushai when handling a challenging task?

Pay attention to the following interview

INTERVIEW (2 min.)

[Interview a younger teenager who was initially reluctant to speak up about a challenge at school, such as evolution, holidays, bullying, and so forth. How did he prepare to face the challenge? How did his parents help him? What was the outcome?]

AIDS TO BEING LOYAL-PRAYER AND MEDITATION (2 min.)

Our loyalty may prompt us to do something we find difficult or distasteful

Our challenge may be that of coping with unreceptive territory, an uncooperative supervisor at work, or perhaps a personality difference with a fellow Christian

When such challenges arise, Jehovah expects us to use our Scriptural training and our mental faculties

Rather than being resentful or avoiding the task, imitate Hushai

Use the Scriptures to meditate on what the task requires
Then, prayerfully and skillfully address the problem [Read
Proverbs 20:18]

But how might we maintain our loyalty to Jehovah if our very lives or
the lives of our brothers are at stake?

Brother _____ will now handle the next part of this symposium,
"Imitate Loyal Ones—Shiphrah and Puah"

TO BE COVERED IN 9 MINUTES

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