

Day 42 – Mar. 28

There are so many references in this passage today to characters or stories we've already heard that it's hard to keep track of them all. In Absalom we have reflections of King Saul, even to the point of Ziba reporting Mephibosheth's hope of getting the kingdom back. Absalom tells David that he just wants to leave the area to go offer a sacrifice to God just like Moses told Pharaoh in Egypt. As David flees with his people, he states that they will wander and not even know where they are going, reflecting the desert wandering of Israel after the Exodus. And Ittai responds very much like Ruth responded to Naomi, "where you go I go no matter what happens." But we also get other reflections of the world we know. David leaves Jerusalem across the Mount of Olives, just as Jesus entered it from the Mount of Olives on Palm Sunday. And even modern political history is reflected here as we see politicians in general but most notably Donald Trump borrowing from Absalom who believes that if you simply say something often and loud enough – true or not – it will be assumed as true. Reflections of the past and the future.

And in this reflection, we have to look for our own reflection in this text. Are we like Absalom, candidating and twisting Truth to get our own way? Are we like David, who flees at the first sign of trouble? Are we like Ittai who promises to stick with David no matter what, or like Mephibosheth who sees personal gain in betraying the one who has forgiven and blessed you? Or are we Ziba, caring for those on the run out of loyalty rather than personal gain? Where do we need our own repentance, and where do we see opportunities for righteousness, faithfulness, and care? How might our lives and actions reflect past heroes of the faith? Or perhaps villains?

Every opportunity for self-reflection and repentance is a gift from God.