

Day 44 – Mar. 30

My brother in law has been a Kansas City Chiefs fan his whole life. Growing up in Kansas, he has stuck with them through thick and thin. I, on the other hand, have only been a fan through the Mahomes years. Not exactly a ‘fair weather fan’, yet not in it for the long haul either. Pretty typical of the average football fan.

We humans are a fickle lot. Whether it’s football, politicians, movie stars, restaurants or Old Testament kings, we tend to go with the one that is more popular, most successful, or in power at the moment. As David retraces his steps back to Jerusalem in today’s reading, I can’t help think of the ordinary farmers as the entourage passes by. Not long ago, they watched this same group move hastily the other direction, fleeing the now-king Absalom. Today they move in stately victory back to Jerusalem to retake the throne. And the farmers just shake their heads at the oddity of royalty.

But others aren’t so calm in their response. Some devoted to David turned their cloaks as soon as Absalom took the throne and David fled, only to turn back again now that David has returned. And many confuse the issue with lies and excuses. So we are left wondering if Mephibosheth, to whom David showed such mercy, truly turned on him and hoped Absalom might restore his grandfather Saul’s kingdom, or whether Ziba was lying about him. Mephibosheth seems genuine in welcoming David back and forgiving Ziba’s harsh words, but it’s hard to tell in writing.

When it comes to God, to church, or to your faith, where do you find that you are a ‘fair weather fan’? Are you able to see the ebbs and flows of your devotion to God? Sometimes reading, praying, worshiping every week if not every day, and sometimes wondering if it wouldn’t be better to sleep in, or watch TV? It is natural for our faith, like our loyalty to other things, to flow like the tide, but with work, help, and accountability, we can maintain a steady devotion to God, to His church, and to His people.