

**Recap of 3/15/26 message by Joe Ricchuiti
("Pride Goes Before...") 2 Samuel 16:15-17:14:**

- 1.** The two main themes of 2 Samuel 16:15-17:4 are the sovereignty of God and the destructiveness of pride.
-Permeating the chapter is the theme that has characterized all these accounts: God's hand was in Absalom's problems and in David's increased fortunes." "This passage is also a stern reminder of God's overriding sovereignty in the affairs of mankind." (Chafin) (see 2 Sam. 17:14.
- "...when one's character is tainted with hatred or ambition or pride it is harder to make wise choices." Absalom is a prime example of this truth.
- 2.** Hushai the Arkite, David's advisor, is the answer to David's prayer that God would frustrate the advice of Ahithophel, Absalom's adviser. Absalom's pride causes him to dismiss Ahithophel's better advice in favor of Hushai's advice meant to frustrate Absalom's plans. God was using his nature against him, "his vanity ensured his ruin."
- 3.** Pride can be defined as "choosing my way over God's way, living for self-interest; not recognizing and acknowledging God's hand in our lives. To defeat pride, we must have our minds, our affections remade/renewed, through the Word of God, so that we desire what God desires.
- 4.** Pride precedes a fall. (Proverbs 16:18).
- 5.** Lessons for leadership: It is foolishness to be influenced by flattery. We must know ourselves, our abilities, our faults, our limitations. We must not be blinded to the truth by vanity.
- 6.** When seeking spiritual counsel and direction for our lives, we should: seek advice from a growing believer; a person of prayer, one who is growing in the Word of God, a person who is not self-willed, one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit.