

OF MEMORIES & MEMORIALS 2 SAM. 17:24-29; 18:18

“The sacred historian was doubtless guided by a principle of selection when he inserted the names of those three men in a book that is to abide through all time....” C. Chapman

2 Samuel 18:18 Now Absalom **in his lifetime** had taken and reared up **for** himself a pillar, which is in the king’s dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: **and he called the pillar after his own name:** and it is called unto this day, **Absalom’s place.**

Matthew 26:13 Verily **I** say unto you, **Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.**

What do we find about living memorials?

1. Service **in dangerous (&/ difficult) times**

2 Samuel 17:24 Then David came to Mahanaim. **And** Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

2 Samuel 17:26 So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.

On just about any level this was **not** a wise move:

- David was in retreat
- Absalom was in pursuit
- David was most vulnerable
- Absalom had all the advantages

Such as: most of the people, most of the military, a stable base, supply lines, counsel, the fear factor...

- At best, the outcome was uncertain → and was probably in Absalom’s favor

Proverbs 17:17 A friend **loveth** at all times, And a brother is born **for adversity.**

John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.**

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **John 15:14** Ye are my friends, **if** ye do whatsoever I command you.

2. Service **with real help!**

2 Samuel 17:28 Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and **parched corn**, and beans, and lentiles, and **parched pulse**, **2 Samuel 17:29** And honey, and butter, and sheep, and **cheese of kine**, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

Many people follow the old adage about helping a ministry: “We want to help in any way we can as long as it doesn’t involve people or money!”

This instead is the very definition of help:

- See a need
- Met a need
- Meet the need, where, when & how it needs to be met!
- Work with others to meet the need!

3. Service from strange places!

2 Samuel 17:27 And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that **Shobi** the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and **Machir** the son of Ammiel of Lo-debar, and **Barzillai** the Gileadite of Rogelim,

These three strike me strange for several reasons:

- No big name people here
- No one from Jerusalem
- No one from an important family

Barzillai: a godly man of long-term, good standing

Shobi: an Ammonite / enemy???

2 Samuel 17:27 And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, **that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon....**

1 Samuel 11:1 Then **Nahash the Ammonite** came up, and encamped against Jabesh-gilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee. **1 Samuel 11:2** And **Nahash the Ammonite** answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.

2 Samuel 10:1 And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and **Hanun his son** reigned in his stead. **2 Samuel 10:2** Then said David, I will shew kindness unto **Hanun the son of Nahash**, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon.

2 Samuel 12:29 And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it. **2 Samuel 12:30** **And he took their king's crown from off his head**, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: **and it was set on David's head**. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

Machir: from Lo-debar → no word, no place, no name

Joke: we don't for sure know where this was in the ancient world!!!

Yet he had a habit of helping those in need!

2 Samuel 9:4 And the king said unto him, **Where is he?** And Ziba said unto the king, **Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar.** **2 Samuel 9:5** Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar.

Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed **Barnabas (Βαρνάβας)**, (which is, being interpreted, **The son of consolation (υἱὸς παρακλήσεως)**), a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, **Acts 4:37** Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

4. Service for simple reasons!

2 Samuel 17:29 And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: **for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.**