

THE TRAIL OF TEARS

1. Text: II Samuel 15:30
2. In winter of 1838 and 39, soldiers forced 16000 Cherokee Indians to march at a cruel pace 1000 miles from SE America to Oklahoma. Some 4000 died of disease, bad food, and no shelter. This event is often called the Trail of Tears and is one of the most shameful acts in U.S. History.
3. The Bible has its Trail of Tears. It's found in II Samuel 15-17 and is the time when David is forced to leave Jerusalem to escape the revolt of Absalom.
4. Why could this be called the Trail of Tears and how could David deal with it?

I. Why Was It The Trail Of Tears?

1. Because this is clearly said. 15:30 David and all the people wept as they moved out.
2. Because David is forced from his beloved home.
"The City of David" Our issues?
3. Because David is running for his life from a rebellious, treacherous, yet beloved son.
See 15:1-12. Our issues?
4. Because of the destination: the wilderness.
See 15:23. Our wilderness?
5. Because David left the ark behind.
See 15:24. The ark of the covenant was the most precious, sacred symbol of God's presence.
Our issues?
6. Because of the defection of a trusted counselor.
See 15:31 and Ahithophel. Our issues?
7. Because of horrible insult and ridicule.
See 16:5-14 and Shimei. Our issues?
8. Because of disgraceful, shameful abuse of David.
See 16:21-22. Absalom invades the private, intimate world of his father. Our issues?

II. How Could David Deal With His Trail Of Tears?

1. By the fierce loyalty of his companions.
See servants in 15:15. See Ittai in 15:19-21.
2. By relying on God's will.
See 15:25-26 and the ark of God. Also 16:11-12 and Shimei.
Job 13:15 "Though God slay me, yet will I trust Him."
3. By prayer.
See 15:31. Next lesson: This text and subject.
4. By the support of others.
See 16:1-2 for Ziba. Also 17:27-29. Our issues?
5. By listening to others.
See 18:3: "You will not go out." Our issues?
6. By rational, careful planning and decisions. And not complaining, murmuring, fretting.

Conclusion:

