

Types of Men found in every Age

BEWARE OF SUCH AS THESE !

David attracted many heroes to his cause as brave and faithful men ever will. These men exhibited many worthy qualities we should follow — such as the self-sacrificing love of Jonathan, the faithful service of Zadok, the courage of Benaiah, the loyalty of Hushai, the kindness of Barzillai, the faith of Nathan. But there was — there always is — the darker side of the picture. There were evil men associated with David, men who beguiled their fellows and led them astray. They exist in every age, and we need beware of them. Here are some of them!

ABSALOM — The unscrupulous seeker of power. The man who prevails by handsome appearance and pleasant manners which hide from view his true intentions. The man who, by use of a mischievous tongue, silently worms himself into the affections of unthinking people, undermining the influence and betraying the confidence of those who trust him. Beware of such!

AHITHOPHEL — The man who permits the desire of revenge to dominate him until it turns his undoubted ability to ways of evil and wickedness. A clever but dangerous man using his power and influence to antagonistic and destructive ends. Beware of such!

SHIMEI — The vindictive man who permits his loyalty to a cause to blind him to greater issues. The coward, ready to condemn and abuse when power is on his side, but to fawn and cringe when danger really threatens. Beware of such!

ZIBA — The man who “sits on the fence” but won’t get down to help either side. He supplies David with provisions but does not go with him. He maligns his master, working to the end that whoever won, Ziba would not lose. Beware of such!

SHEBA — The man who feeds on trouble. The destroyer of unity in Israel, using popular catcheries to advance his own interest. Beware of such!

THE NAMELESS MULTITUDE — Swayed this way and that; first with David, then with Absalom, then with David, then with Sheba, then with Adonijah, then with Solomon. Moved by emotion and not by reason, swayed by popular opinion and not by the Word of God. “The meanest man may pull down a wall, set fire to a palace, or whisper a slander about the king. The remarkable thing is that whilst society realises this it is ready to lend an ear to every wicked speaker who arises, insisting upon the old and detestable argument that although the report may not be wholly and literally true, there must be some foundation in it.”
DON’T FOLLOW A MULTITUDE TO DO MISCHIEF.

In addition to those listed by brother Mansfield, here are other “characters” to be on guard against:

- “**Antisocial personality** (previously called psychopathic or sociopathic): Persons with this personality disorder callously disregard the rights and feelings of others. They exploit others for materialistic gain or personal gratification (unlike narcissistic persons, who exploit others because they think their superiority justifies it). Characteristically, they act out their conflicts in impulsive and irresponsible ways, sometimes with hostility and serious violence. They tolerate frustration poorly.” Sociopaths are smooth, engaging, charming, slick, and verbally facile. Sociopathic charm is not in the least shy, self-conscious, or afraid to say anything.
- “**Narcissistic personality:** Persons with this personality disorder are grandiose; ie, they have an exaggerated sense of superiority. Their relationships with others are characterized by their need to be admired, and they are extremely sensitive to criticism, failure, or defeat. When confronted with a failure to fulfill their high opinion of themselves, they can become enraged or seriously depressed.”
- “**Histrionic (hysterical) personality:** Persons with this personality disorder conspicuously seek attention, are conscious of appearance, and are dramatic. Their expression of emotions often seems exaggerated, childish, and superficial and, like other dramatic behaviors.”
- “**Borderline personality:** Persons with this personality disorder--predominantly women--are unstable in their self-image, mood, behavior, and interpersonal relationships. This personality disorder becomes evident in early adult years, but it tends to become milder or to stabilize with age. Such persons believe they were deprived of adequate care during their childhood and consequently feel empty, angry, and entitled to nurturance. As a result, they are relentless seekers of care.”
- “**Paranoid personality:** Persons with this personality disorder are generally cold and distant in interpersonal relationships or are controlling and jealous if they become attached. They tend to react with suspicion to changes in situations and to find hostile and malevolent motives behind other people's trivial, innocent, or even positive acts.”

Information from the [Merck Medical Manual Copyright © 1995-2004 Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA. All rights reserved.](#)