

Devotional Guide

August 3–8, 2026



The Choice to Supply

Faithful Supply When All Seems Lost

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

The message explores how, even when the kingdom looked finished and the king fled in tears, God used the costly choices of ordinary faithful people to keep His promise advancing. Through the story of Barzillai the Gileadite—who opened his wagons to supply David’s weary company at great personal risk—and the example of Joanna who funded Jesus’ ministry from Herod’s household, the sermon shows that those who have tasted God’s hesed keep the supply lines open even when it costs them everything. True faithfulness is revealed when the outcome is still in doubt. This truth challenges every follower of Jesus to take one costly step to supply a real need and then step aside, content that they have served the King until He returns.

Big Idea: Even when all seems lost, God uses the costly choices of faithful people to advance His kingdom. Sticky Phrase: Those who have tasted God’s hesed keep the supply lines open—even when it costs them everything.

Day 1: When the Outcome Is Still in Doubt

Bible Reading: 2 Samuel 16:5–13; 2 Samuel 7:12–16

David is the man after God’s own heart, yet the consequences of his sin have landed. Absalom has stolen the hearts of Israel. David flees Jerusalem barefoot and weeping. Shimei comes out cursing and throwing stones. Abishai wants to cut off his head, but David refuses: “Let him curse, for the LORD has told him to.” The kingdom looks finished.

Yet God had already promised David an everlasting kingdom (2 Samuel 7). The promise is still advancing—even when the king looks defeated. True faithfulness is revealed when the outcome is still in doubt. The Vicar of Bray flipped with every change of power. Barzillai will do the opposite. Even when all seems lost, God uses the costly choices of faithful people to advance His kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does David’s response to Shimei’s cursing reveal about his trust in God’s sovereignty?
2. How does the promise in 2 Samuel 7 stand in tension with a weeping, barefoot king?
3. Where in your life does the “outcome still look uncertain,” and how are you tempted to respond like Shimei or the Vicar of Bray?
4. What does it mean for you that God’s kingdom promise advances even when circumstances look defeated?
5. How will you choose faithfulness this week while the outcome is still in doubt?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, when the outcome looks uncertain and the pressure rises, keep me from cursing or flipping with the wind. Help

me trust that Your promise is still advancing. Give me courage to remain faithful while the battle is still undecided. Amen.

Action Step: Identify one area where the Lord’s work looks “defeated” or under pressure this week. Write it down and pray over it each day, asking God to show you one faithful response.

Day 2: Opening the Wagons

Bible Reading: 2 Samuel 17:27–29

When David comes to Mahanaim, Shobi, Machir, and Barzillai bring beds, basins, pottery, wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils, honey, curds, sheep, and cheese. “For the people have become hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.”

Barzillai is eighty years old, a man of great wealth on the far side of the Jordan. Supporting the deposed king is treason. If Absalom wins, his estates, reputation, and life are forfeit. He still opens the wagons. Those who have tasted God’s hesed keep the supply lines open—even when it costs them everything.

Reflection Questions:

1. List the specific items Barzillai and the others brought. What does the detailed list communicate about the need and the care?
2. Why was supporting David at this moment such a high-risk decision for Barzillai?
3. Where have you “tasted God’s hesed”? How has that experience shaped your willingness to risk something for others?
4. What “wagon” (time, money, reputation, energy) is God inviting you to open this week?
5. How does Barzillai’s choice challenge the way you usually wait for safer outcomes?

Prayer Prompt: Father, thank You for the hesed I have tasted in Jesus. Give me Barzillai's courage to open the wagons even when the risk is real and the outcome is still in doubt. Show me the hungry, weary, and thirsty near me. Amen.

Action Step: Choose one tangible need you can meet this week (a meal, a ride, a bill, a listening ear). Do it without announcing it.

Day 3: Content to Serve and Step Aside

Bible Reading: 2 Samuel 19:31–39

Absalom is dead. The rebellion has collapsed. David is invited back. Barzillai comes down to escort the king across the Jordan. David offers him a place of honor in Jerusalem and says he will provide for him.

Barzillai answers with beautiful humility: “How many years have I left? I am eighty. Why should your servant be an added burden? Let me return home... But here is your servant Chimham. Let him cross over with you.” David kisses him, blesses him, and Barzillai goes home. God's faithful people supply what they can, refuse the spotlight, and go home content.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Barzillai's refusal of the honor reveal about his heart and his view of the King?
2. Why is it significant that he nominates Chimham to take his place?
3. In what ways are you tempted to hold onto recognition or the “next opportunity” instead of releasing it?
4. How does going home “content” after costly service differ from the world's definition of success?

5. Who is a “Chimham” in your life to whom you can give an opportunity or the credit?

Prayer Prompt: King Jesus, teach me the Barzillai move. Help me supply what I can, then deliberately step aside so someone else can rise. Make me content to serve You without needing the spotlight. Amen.

Action Step: Practice the Barzillai move today: do one generous thing, then intentionally give the next opportunity or the credit to someone younger, newer, or less visible.

Day 4: Jesus Had His Own Barzillai

Bible Reading: Luke 8:1–3

Jesus went through cities and villages proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. The twelve were with him, and also some women... Mary Magdalene... and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Joanna’s risk was real. Married to a high official in Herod Antipas’s court (the same Herod who killed John the Baptist), public association with a Galilean teacher and using household resources to fund itinerant ministry could have brought suspicion or worse. She still opened the “wagons.” God still uses the costly choices of faithful people to advance His kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

1. What specific risks did Joanna take by funding Jesus’ ministry from inside Herod’s household?
2. How does her example expand your understanding of who can keep the King’s supply lines open?

3. Where might your current position, relationships, or resources give you a unique opportunity to supply the work of Jesus?
4. What fear most often stops you from taking a “Joanna step”?
5. How does Joanna’s quiet supply encourage you to use what you have for the King?

Prayer Prompt: Lord Jesus, thank You for Joanna and for every quiet supplier whose name is known to You. Show me the unique place You have given me to keep Your supply lines open. Give me courage to risk reputation, comfort, or resources for the sake of Your kingdom. Amen.

Action Step: Identify one resource or relationship God has placed in your life that could quietly advance His work. Take one concrete step today to put it into service.

Day 5: Meeting Real Needs at Real Cost

Bible Reading: Matthew 25:34–40

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you... For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

Followers of Jesus keep the King’s supply line open by meeting real needs at real cost—until the day the true King returns. The hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and prisoner are opportunities to serve the King Himself. Barzillai supplied a weary king; Joanna supplied an itinerant Teacher; we supply the least of these and discover we have been supplying Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does Jesus identify Himself with “the least of these”? What does that do to the way you see people in need?

2. Which of the six needs listed (hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, prisoner) feels most present in your circle right now?
3. What is the difference between convenient giving and “real cost” giving?
4. How does knowing that service to the least is service to Jesus change your motivation?
5. What one real need will you meet this week as an act of worship to the King?

Prayer Prompt: King Jesus, open my eyes to see You in the least of these. Soften my heart and loosen my grip on time, money, and comfort. Use me to keep Your supply line open until You return. Amen.

Action Step: Meet one concrete need this week for someone who cannot repay you. Do it as an act of worship to the King.

Day 6: Your Costly Choice This Week

Bible Reading: 2 Samuel 19:31–39; Matthew 25:40

The message ends with two clear action steps. 1) Take one costly-to-you step to supply a real need where the Lord’s work looks under-supplied or “defeated.” 2) Practice the Barzillai move: do the generous thing, then deliberately give the next opportunity or the credit to someone younger or newer.

Objections still rise: “I’m too old.” Barzillai was eighty. “I’m too tired.” He still came. “Resources are tight.” The risk of losing everything was real. “What if it doesn’t work?” Absalom still looked like the winner when the wagons rolled. Barzillai faced every objection and still opened the wagon. This is how ordinary people keep the supply line open until the King returns.

Reflection Questions:

1. Which objection most often keeps you from opening the wagon?
How does Barzillai's example speak to it?
2. Write out the one costly-to-you step you will take this week. Be specific.
3. Who is a "Chimham" in your life—someone younger or newer to whom you can give an opportunity or the credit?
4. How will you live out "The Choice to Supply" so that the sticky phrase becomes true of you?
5. What will help you stay faithful when the outcome is still in doubt?

Prayer Prompt: Father, I have tasted Your hesed in Jesus. I choose today to keep the supply lines open. Give me one clear, costly step this week and the courage to take it. Then help me step aside and give the next opportunity away. Until the King returns, use ordinary people like me. Amen.

Action Step: Complete both action steps from the sermon this week. Tell one trusted person what you plan to do so they can encourage and check on you.



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