

Jonathan: A Faithful Follower of the Anointed King

1 Samuel 20

Introduction:

1. Have you ever noticed that, many times, **right** decisions are **tough** decisions? As believers, sometimes we have to make decisions that may result in personal loss, or our decisions may anger a family member, or they may not be popular.
2. This is when true Christian character has to step in, and we make the right decision because it is right, and we know that it will please God. 2 Timothy 2:1, 3
3. If there is anybody in your Bible that is an example of this, it is King Saul's son, Jonathan. His dad was the earthly king of Israel, but Saul was not **God's** choice. God had rejected Saul as king, and anointed David to be the king of Israel.
4. David, in your Bible, is so many times a type - or picture - of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus Christ came to the earth, was anointed by God's Spirit, and was God's choice to be the King of Israel and of the entire earth. But, Christ was rejected and killed. Christ rose from the dead and went into heavenly exile. Today, He is the anointed, but rejected King.
 - David was anointed by God's prophet to be king of God's people in 1 Samuel 16, but David was rejected by Israel's leadership and was in exile, here in chapter 20. He was the anointed, but rejected king. What a type - or picture - of Jesus Christ!
5. But, while David was in exile, Jonathan was a friend of the anointed, but rejected king. Jonathan was the oldest son of King Saul, and would have been next in line to take the throne. But, Jonathan realized that David was God's choice.
6. Jonathan believed on the anointed, but rejected king, and received him as his own, despite the rejection and the animosity of others (even in his own family).
7. Jonathan is a picture of the believer today in this time of grace. We believe on Christ despite the rejection of Him by Israel and the Gentile nations. We receive Him as our Lord and as our Savior. We believe He **is** the anointed One, the King of kings.
 - Chapter 20 contains the last details we have about this man, Jonathan, and what a man he was. I want to take a final look at this incredible man before moving on in the book.
8. Jonathan is an inspiration and a great model for the attitudes that a believer today should have towards our Savior, Jesus Christ. How can we be faithful followers of our anointed King, just as Jonathan was? We must possess:

Unconditional love - 18:1-3

1. David was anointed by Samuel in chapter 16. David defeats the giant, Goliath, in chapter 17. After witnessing David's life and his words to King Saul, Jonathan develops a deep love for David, and loves him as his own soul. vs. 1
2. The more Jonathan examined David's life, the more he loved him. In fact, he loved him so much, he made a covenant (agreement) with David. "David, you are God's choice. I am with you. I will follow **you**."

3. Jonathan's love is what motivated him to want to follow David. He didn't **have** to follow David. He was the king's son. David didn't force Jonathan to follow him. Jonathan did it because he loved David. What a lesson for us!
4. Why should I want to serve Christ? Why should I want to give to Christ? Why should I want to follow Christ? Not because I have to, and not because Christ has forced me to, but because I love Him and I want to. 1 Corinthians 2:9; Ephesians 6:24
5. Do you know how you fall more in love with Christ? Just like Jonathan loved David because he watched his life and listened to his words, you love Christ more and more as you read about Him and study about Him in His Word.

Unconditional surrender - 18:4

1. This is absolutely amazing. Jonathan was the king's son, yet he stripped himself of his royal robe and put it on David. This was an outward picture of Jonathan's inner heart.
 - He was saying, "David, you are God's anointed. You are God's man. I am surrendered to you." Jonathan recognized who David was before everybody else did, and therefore offered to David his total surrender.
2. This reminds me of believers today. We recognize who Christ is and what He has done for us on the cross, but many times those around us don't understand; they don't get it. They can't figure out why we would want to surrender our lives to Jesus Christ.
3. We surrender our lives to Him because we recognize who He is, what He has done, and we love Him! 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Unconditional loyalty - 19:1-7

1. We covered this text last week. King Saul wanted David dead, and put a bounty on his head. Jonathan could have been silent and allowed David to walk into trouble, but he immediately went to David and warned him. Then, he went to his dad and spoke well of David. vs. 4-5
2. What an example to us. If Jonathan could be that loyal to a human man, how much more should we be loyal to our Savior, Jesus Christ? When others speak against Him, we proclaim His goodness. We speak up for Christ. Romans 10:11
3. If Christ has saved you from your sins and given to you eternal life, never be ashamed of your Savior. Never back down when others want to blaspheme His holy name or speak evil of Him. Paul was so loyal, he was ready to die for the cause of Christ. Acts 21:13

Unconditional sacrifice - 20:1-42

1. Here in chapter 20, David is on the run because he knew Saul wanted to kill him (vs. 1). Jonathan can't believe that his dad still wants to kill David (vs. 2-3), so they devise a plan whereby they can uncover Saul's heart and intent towards David. vs. 5-29

2. David was right. Saul still wanted to kill him. Saul was enraged at Jonathan and he basically said to him, "Don't you get it? You are next in line for the throne, and David is the only one standing in your way. You should want him dead as much as I do." vs. 30-31
3. Jonathan sticks up for David (vs. 32), Saul exhibits his total rage again (vs. 33), and Jonathan stomps out in fierce anger. vs. 34
4. Jonathan had to go to give David the bad news. They had a signal set up, but David had to see Jonathan one last time. From this point on, David would be on the run, with Saul hunting him like a wild animal. Except for one more brief meeting, these two dear friends would never see each other again. Verse 41 is very touching.
5. Why does the Bible say that David exceeded in his weeping?
6. I believe it was because he realized the great, selfless sacrifice that Jonathan had made for him. Jonathan gave up position, power, fame, and riches in order to be true to David.
7. I believe David was moved by the personal sacrifice of Jonathan. Jonathan had aligned himself up against his own father in order to do what was right, and stay true to David, the anointed - yet rejected - King of Israel.
8. There are times when you and I may be called upon to make personal sacrifices for our anointed, yet rejected King - our Savior - Jesus Christ.
 - By staying true to Jesus, it could mean a loss of a job, a loss of a friendship, a strain in a family relationship, the loss of money, the loss of popularity, etc.
9. May Jonathan be an inspiration to us all. Are you prepared to sacrifice for your Savior? Are you more concerned with the exalting of Christ than your own personal ambition?
10. When you are faced with tough choices, what will your response be? Hopefully, it will be the same as Jonathan's. You will choose to follow Christ, regardless of the personal cost.

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