

THE OLD PATHS

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“Jonathan”

Jarrod Jacobs

In my opinion, we do not speak enough about the brave man, Jonathan. Jonathan was King Saul’s son (I Sam. 13:16, 14:1, 49), and the assumed heir to the throne of Israel, until God took the throne from Saul and gave it to David (I Sam. 16). One of the factors that I think makes Jonathan stand out is that he was a man who readily accepted God’s decision about David being the second king of Israel. Jonathan was a close friend to David, a man after God’s own heart, even when this meant choosing between his friendship with David and his loyalty to his father.

Jonathan Was A Man Of Principle.

His loyalty to David over his father was not an arbitrary decision. He was a true friend and stayed loyal to David because Saul was **WRONG!** Saul’s pursuit and attempts to murder David were attempts to break the sixth commandment under which Israel lived (Ex. 20:13). Too, Saul was fighting against God in another way, for God intended for David to be the next king, not Jonathan, Mishui, Melchishua, or anyone else in Saul’s family. God chose David (I Sam. 16:12-13)! Yet, instead of accepting the verdict of Heaven as Jonathan did, Saul spent his days in pursuing and attempting to kill his competition (I Sam. 20:31)! Jonathan would have no part of that.

Jonathan Was A Man Of Fierce Loyalty.

When David revealed Saul’s intention to kill him, Jonathan denied this (I Sam. 20:1-2). Yet, when David suggested a test by which Jonathan would finally know the true character of Saul, he told David, “*If I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?*” (v. 9). When David’s plan falls into place, and Saul confesses the truth concerning his intentions for murdering David, this solidifies Jonathan’s resolve. There was no doubt of the loyalty Jonathan possessed for God’s anointed, David.

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Jonathan Was Not Possessed By Jealousy.

In the entire record of the lives of Jonathan and David, I see no evidence of jealousy directed toward David for being chosen by God to succeed Saul. In fact, I find the opposite. I Samuel 23:17 records Jonathan saying, *“Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.”* This says something great about Jonathan and his attitude. He was willing to accept the Lord’s plan even when it meant someone else would be considered greater than he. On more than one occasion, Jonathan and David made covenants of loyalty between each other (I Sam. 18:3, 20:12-17, 42, 23:18). Sometimes, when folks see others being blessed in various ways, they might tend to think, “What about me? Don’t I also deserve _____?” Not so with Jonathan. He was well-satisfied to accept the Lord’s dealings as good, and wanted the best for David. His love was genuine for this shepherd from Judah that God had chosen. Jonathan *“strengthened (David’s) hand in God”* (I Sam. 23:16)!

Jonathan Died Valiantly.

Sadly, because of sin, God determined that not only Saul’s life, but the lives of his sons would be lost in war (I Sam. 28:17-19). This happened as Saul and the army fought the Philistines at Mount Gilboa (I Sam. 31:2). Though Jonathan did not follow the wishes of Saul and betray David, this did not mean that Jonathan hated his father. He still loved him, and we find Jonathan fighting for the nation of Israel against the enemies of the Lord with his father and brothers, and dying in battle as God said.

Conclusion

I hope this short account of Jonathan’s life will encourage us to read the record of Jonathan and David in its entirety in I Samuel 18-31. It is a wonderful account, teaching us about love, service, loyalty, and obedience to God’s will, even when it means things don’t go our way (Rom. 15:4)! May the Lord raise up more Jonathan’s to help encourage and strengthen the David’s God will raise!

A Thought Worth Thinking ...

“No man is too wicked to go to church!
No man is too righteous to stay away!”

- Claude Davis, 1965

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where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

Refrigerator Christians

Joel Raulerson

How often do we let our lights shine before men (Matt. 5:14-16)? Many Christians are guilty of what I call “Refrigerator Christianity.” These are Christians who only let their lights shine when people are looking at them. Once they leave the church building on Sunday, they are entirely different people. Perhaps as they’re getting ready for Sunday morning services, the family is doing nothing but arguing and fighting all the way to the building. Once at the building, they then put on an act that causes brethren to think that everything is fine in their home. This level of Christianity is superficial and not what Christ was talking about in Matthew 5. Matthew 5:14-16 says, *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* Is your light only shining when you think people are looking? As soon as your brethren or friends are not looking, are you hiding your Christianity under the proverbial basket?

There is more to this illustration. Not only should you not attempt to hide your Christianity, but do not wait to allow your light to shine. Some only allow their lights to shine after someone else has initiated the conversation. Much like when someone opens the door of a refrigerator, do you only bring up Christianity when someone directly asks you a Bible question? Jesus said that if you are truly letting your lights shine, then it would be impossible for anyone not to know that you are serving God! How many of your co-workers, friends, or family have known you for years, but they do not know that you are a Christian? If you are letting your light shine like you should, it will be impossible to hide it from anyone! You will be like a city that is lit up on top of a hill that people can see for miles around. You may fool yourself into thinking that you are not hiding your Christianity. However, if you only attempt to evangelize when someone else approaches you first, you are not truly letting your light shine.

We are to our lights shine regardless of where we are, or who we think is watching (Col. 3:17). They may be far off and we may not even be aware

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of them looking at us. Yet, they are looking at us because they see the glory of God shining brightly through us! This shining light is not meant to bring attention to us or our deeds. This is not to glorify us or bring attention to how great we think we are. No, the whole purpose of letting our lights shine is too point people to Christ! Do not be a “refrigerator Christian”!



Spotlight On A Bible Verse: II John 9

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” John’s warning still rings true today. Fellowship with God and Christ comes as a result of “abiding” (living) within the confines of God’s word. God’s word stands, not as a barrier holding us back, but as a hedge of protection that keeps us safe from sin and evil. If we trespass (transgress) the boundaries and leave the Lord, we have not simply hurt ourselves, but have affected Heaven itself! This is because where we are going, God will not go with us (Isa. 59:1-2; I Jn. 1:5). Decide that the rest of our lives will be devoted to abiding in Christ’s doctrine. In so doing, we will have fellowship with God right now, and can look forward to an eternity with Him when this life is over! - Jarrod Jacobs



“I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!”

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Location: 103 N. Main St. Caneyville, KY

Website: <http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>

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Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Bible classes)

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“The Ancient Landmark” television program airs on:

www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994

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