

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 28: Chapter 18, The Peoples' Love for David

13 January 2017

After God wrought a great victory against the Philistines as a result of the great faith of David and his stand against Goliath (Chpt. 17), the people began to exhibit their love for David in various ways. Similarly, when the Lord Jesus Christ does something wonderful for us, our love for Him ought to be manifest in our hearts and on our lips and be openly expressed in these same ways. We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). In fact, His goodness toward us will lead us to repentance (Rom. 2:4). Why would we ever wish to rebel against such a loving Lord?

FOUR EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

1. THE LOVE THAT SURRENDERS ALL (Vss. 1-4).

Jonathan loved David "as his own soul" (vs. 1) because his soul was "knit with the soul of David." This is not a physical or temporal bond; it is a union of their souls.	Christians have a similar bond with Jesus Christ. Christ is in you (Col. 1:27) in the person of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19, 1 Tim. 1:14, 1 Jn. 5:7). This is a union of the soul of God with the soul of man. We "walk in him" (Col. 2:6) as "Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20).
Jonathan and David made a covenant (vs. 3).	The New Testament believer has a covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:25, Heb. 9:15, 13:20). This is an eternal covenant that seals our salvation (Eph. 1:13).
Jonathan gave all (vs. 4). He laid down his life for David. All that he was and all that he could be; he offered it to David. He honored David with the honor that could have been his own.	Our Lord is worthy "to receive glory and honour and power" (Rev. 4:11, 19:1). We show our love for the Lord when we are willing to lay down our lives (honor, fame, reputation, wealth, etc.) for Him (John 15:13). Be greatly satisfied to give Christ the preeminence in all things (Col. 1:18). Don't let pride cause you to keep the glory and honor to yourself; it will rob you of this joy and contentment.
Jonathan gave David the things pertaining to his ability to lead in battle and to defend himself (vs. 4).	We ought to turn over all our battles to the Lord Jesus Christ and trust Him to keep us safe and give us the victory (1 Cor. 15:57). "The battle is the Lord's" (1 Sam. 17:47). "My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart." (Psa. 7:10).
Jonathan stripped to his girdle. This represents his work; his ability to provide for his needs through labor.	Commit your work to the Lord. "whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23).

2. THE LOVE OF GRATITUDE (Vs. 16, Vss. 5-7)

We see the gratitude that the people of Israel had toward David in these verses. They “loved David” (vs. 16) and accepted him (vs. 5) and celebrated his victory (vs. 7).

When we realize what Jesus Christ has done for us and continues to do for us, it ought to make us grateful to know Him and to have Him as our Lord and Savior. We should never pray without offering thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6, Col. 3:15). We have many reasons to praise Him (Psa. 113:1). His grace and mercy are reason enough (Eph. 1:6-7, 2:4).

3. THE LOVE OF ADMIRATION (Vs. 22).

King Saul may have pretended to admire David in vs. 22, but he was truly admired by the people.

The Lord Jesus Christ is so admirable that the very thought of him should make us stand in awe (Psa. 4:4, 33:8). He is everything that we fall short of (Heb. 3:3). He is honorable, decent, mighty, noble, and worthy to be exalted and worshipped. There’s no one like our God (Isa. 44:8, Rev. 4:11).

4. THE LOVE OF NATURE (Vss. 20, 28)

Michal loved David in a natural sense. She had a natural desire to be with him and to have a physical earthly relationship with him.

What a blessing it is to know that Jesus loves us and is with us even during those times when we’re just living our natural lives and when we’re not involved in any spiritual activities. He is “a friend that sticketh closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). Wherever you are, the Lord is “even there” (Psalm 139). He’ll never leave thee nor forsake thee (Heb. 13:5).
