

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 32: Chapter 20, Jonathan; a Picture of a Disciple of Christ.

10 February 2017

This chapter in the Bible pictures David as the despised and rejected king (Jesus Christ at His first coming) who has a devoted and loving friend in Jonathan (a picture of Jesus' true disciples on earth).

Isaiah 53:3, speaking of Jesus Christ says, "**He is despised and rejected of men.**" This is a present-tense truth. Today Jesus Christ is just as despised, hated, and rejected by men as He was 2,000 years ago. The question is, will you stay true to Him, though all the world hate Him—and hate you for your love for Him?

DAVID PROCLAIMED HIS INNOCENCE; HE WAS NOT GUILTY OF ANY INIQUITY (Vs. 1)

- Jesus Christ was innocent, without blame, without sin, without spot, hated without a cause (Matt. 27:4, 19, 24, Luke 23:4, John 15:25, 1 Pet. 1:19, 2:22, Heb. 4:15, 9:25, Acts 13:28).

JONATHAN REJECTED THE IDEA THAT ANYONE WOULD WANT TO HARM DAVID (Vs. 2)

- The disciples of Jesus rejected the thought of Jesus being crucified (Matthew 16:22, Mark 8:31-32)
-

THE MARKS OF A TRULY DEVOTED DISCIPLE

1. JONATHAN GAVE HIS ALL FOR DAVID (Vs. 4)

- He put David's desires ahead of his own, no matter what it cost him. He denied himself (Luke 9:23) just as Jesus did (Luke 22:42) and as Jesus instructed (Matthew 6:33).
-

2. JONATHAN WATCHED OUT FOR DAVID (Vs. 9)

- The second mark of a true disciple is that your care for other believers will cause you to watch for any dangers that may come their way and you'll give a warning.
 - You'll keep your eyes wide open, watch unto prayer, guard their lives, watch over their well-being, warn them of any harm approaching, any trick of the Devil, any slight of men, any deception, any flaw in character, etc. —anything that might harm them.
-

3. JONATHAN WAS AWARE THAT GOD IS ALWAYS LISTENING (Vss. 12-13)

- As he spoke to David, he also addressed the Lord God, revealing his awareness of God's presence.
 - A true disciple of Christ would, in his/her heart, know that the Lord is always present in every situation and every moment. That awareness would certainly change their actions and activities.
 - It would put an end to gossip, fault-finding, tale-bearing, criticizing, and other sinful acts.
-

4. JONATHAN BELIEVED IN DAVID'S EVENTUAL AND COMPLETE TRIUMPH AND TRUSTED THAT HE WOULD BE REWARDED IN THAT DAY (Vss. 14-15)

- Jonathan was living for the future. He believed the promise of God to make David a king in Israel.
 - A true disciple of Jesus will believe God's word by faith and act upon it.
 - If you don't stand on the promises of God, you'll give up when the world persecutes you.
 - You need to live your life knowing that God's promises concerning the future are true.
-

5. JONATHAN HAS TRUE CHARITY; HE LOVES HIS NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF (Vs. 17)

- Jonathan loved David as he loved his own soul.
 - The second great commandment is to love thy neighbor as thyself (Lev. 19:18, Mat. 19:19, 22:39, Mark 12:31, Rom. 13:9, Gal. 5:14, James 2:8).
-

6. JONATHAN IS HATED BY HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR DAVID (Vs. 30)

- Jonathan didn't mistreat or sin against his father, Saul. Saul's hatred for Jonathan was a result of Jonathan's love for David.
 - A true disciple of Jesus will be hated as Jesus was hated (Matthew 10:36, Mark 13:13, Luke 6:22, 12:52-53, John 15:18).
-

7. JONATHAN GAVE UP HIS OWN GLORY FOR DAVID (Vss. 31-32)

- A true disciple of Christ will give up their own claim to glory, preferring to bring honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:30, Mark 1:7, Col. 1:18).
-

8. JONATHAN DEFENDS THE HONOR OF DAVID BEFORE HIS ENEMIES (Vs. 32)

- A true disciple of Jesus will defend the honor of his Lord (1 Tim. 1:20, Matthew 17:24-25).
 - Christians today will defend other men (politicians, musicians, actors, etc.) and they'll defend the right to promote lies and deception through manmade holidays, but they won't stand up and defend the honor of Jesus Christ their Lord when His name is being dragged through the mud. These are not disciples.
-

9. JONATHAN WAS GRIEVED FOR DAVID'S HONOR AND REPUTATION (Vss. 33-34)

- Jonathan wasn't grieved because of how Saul treated him. He was grieved because of the terrible things his father had said about David.
 - A true disciple of Jesus Christ will be grieved whenever any ill word is spoken against their Lord.
-

How devoted are you to your Lord?