

JONATHAN, GOD'S MIGHTY WARRIOR!

Text: I Samuel 14:1-6

God is looking for someone after His own heart. "...The LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart..." (I Samuel 13:14b). Through the annals of history in every generation, this is the man or woman God is looking for--someone after His very own heart. We see in Scripture that God found David to be that man who fulfilled that requirement (Acts 13:22). Jonathan was the best friend of David who dedicated himself to putting that "chosen man" on the throne of Israel.

1. A MIGHTY WARRIOR TRUSTS THE LORD, TAKES THE RISK AND LEAVES THE OUTCOME TO GOD.

"And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few" (I Samuel 14:6).

2. A MIGHTY MAN IS NEVER DISHEARTENED BY ODDS

"...there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few" (I Samuel 14:6).
II Kings 6:15-17; II Chronicles 32:7, 8

3. A MIGHTY WARRIOR ATTRACTS MEN OF LIKE PASSION.

"And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart" (I Samuel 14:7).

3. A MIGHTY WARRIOR SEPARATES HIMSELF FROM RELUCTANT WARRIORS.

"And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves" (I Samuel 14:11). (I Samuel 13:5-7).

4. A MIGHTY WARRIOR RISES ABOVE NATURAL SETBACKS.

"And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?" (I Samuel 15:17). "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king"(I Samuel 15:22, 23).

King Saul disobeyed the Lord. Jonathan obeyed the Lord. Just because his dad was disobedient did not mean that Jonathan would automatically be the same way. Ezekiel rebuked the whole house of Israel for blaming their mistakes on their parents. He said, "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the

land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?" (Ezekiel 18:2). He was saying, don't blame your parents for making you the way you are. We all have a choice. We can rise above our family failures and influences if we so choose.

5. A MIGHTY WARRIOR ALIGNS HIMSELF WITH MEN THAT GOD USES.

"And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (I Samuel 18:1). "And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul" (I Samuel 18:12). "And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city" (I Samuel 20:42). "And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, 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" (I Samuel 23:16, 17).

Melvin Newland relates, "F.B. Meyer preached in London, England, while Charles Spurgeon & G. Campbell Morgan were preaching there, too. They were all great preachers, but Spurgeon's church & Morgan's church were both bigger than Meyer's church. And he admitted to being a bit envious of them. So he prayed, asking God to tell him what to do because he was jealous of them, and he didn't want to be jealous. And somehow God instructed him to pray for both Spurgeon and Morgan, that their churches would prosper, and that more and more people would come to them. Well, Meyer said that he didn't want to do that. But he thought that he had better obey the Lord. So he prayed diligently that Spurgeon's church and Morgan's church would grow and grow. He said, 'Their churches grew so much in answer to my prayers, that they overflowed. And,' he said, 'the overflow came to my church.'"

6. A MIGHTY WARRIOR IS A PERSON OF UNDYING LOYALTY.

"Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions" (II Samuel 1:23).

Saul did not deserve the loyalty Jonathan gave him. There is no record that Jonathan ever complained about entering into the fray of "Saul's last stand." If you were to ask me why Jonathan was loyal, I would answer:

a. Jonathan was ever aware of the fifth commandment: "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Deuteronomy 5:16).

b. Saul was still Jonathan's king. Even the New Testament says, "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (I Peter 2:17). David himself, although pursued by King Saul forbade his men to do harm to Saul. "And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD" (I Samuel 24:6). "The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee" (I Samuel 24:12).

c. Jonathan loved the Lord and left life's greatest decisions in His hands. "But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Psalm 75:7). "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). I am reminded of the words in "The Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die."

7. A MIGHTY WARRIOR IS MOURNED WHEN HE DIES.

The new king David lamented, "Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!" (II Sam. 1:24-27).

The great and mighty warrior Jonathan was mourned. Let us also remember and pause for a time out of our busy lives to say thank you to the Lord for our heroes who have died in a just cause. May we never forget the martyrs who gave up their freedom so that we may have the freedom to worship as we are this morning.

-Johnny Pope-