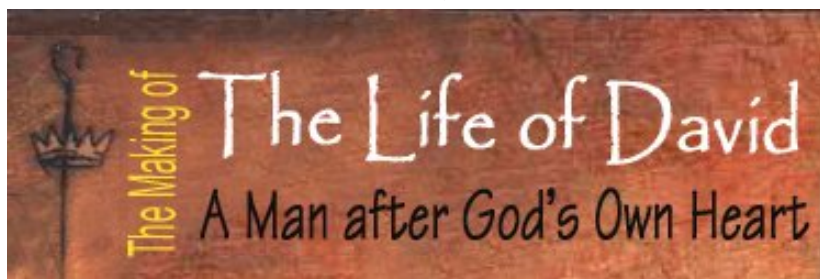




1 Samuel 31

Jonathan – A Man of Faith Sun, June 7th 2006



Instruction Manuals need pictures

- Perhaps odd thing to say at the beginning today
- Yet, practically it is true, isn't it
- Putting together something...look at diagram

God's instruction manual – the Bible – has pictures

- Word pictures...examples
- **Heb 10** calls us to faith...and gives us exam in **11**
- It tells us what God wants – faith & gives models
- Today we want to see such a model of faith

Studying 1 & 2 Samuel – the life of David

- In chapter 31 come to death of Saul & Jonathan
- Felt led by God to stop here...and study these men whose lives were intertwined with David
- Saul – last week...the fool
- Jonathan – this week -Honestly–so much to say, was going to try to say it in one week– can't
 - This week – Jonathan – a man of faith
 - Next week – Jonathan- David's Friend

I. Faith is Active...accomplishes

1. Could say that "Faith is a verb" – it does things

a. See in **Heb 11:33-34** 

2. See such faith in action, at first appearance of Jonathan

a. Jonathan is entrusted with 1,000 men – 1 Sam 13

- i) Half of what Saul has...easy to wait on greater
- ii) Jonathan just does...he acts, he attacks

b. A sense he was never satisfied to just sit around – while others are...he is doing, stretching, going

- i) Can almost imagine him saying "just do it"
- ii) For me...I see Paul this way in the NT

3. Application for us - Faith is active...action

a. True, not everyone has Jonathan's personality

- i) Not saying we all can or should

b. But Jonathan is illustration of faith...and that is active

- i) Faith, real faith is never theoretical - active
- ii) Bible says we are saved by faith – means actively placing our lives on God

4. How is that active faith supposed to work?

a. To me, Jonathan gives one of best examples – Chap14

b. Some have called this Venture in Faith (VIF)

5. What is a Venture in Faith

a. Venture means a risky or daring undertaking

b. Attempting something impossible for God by faith

c. Something to bring Him glory, His work advanced

d. We see such ventures throughout Bible – Abraham rescuing Lot, Jericho, David, Daniel

e. God likes impossible odds...arranges them

6. ViF's begin with an idea

- a. Love the wording...just one day...idea
- b. I personally believe – God is doing this
- c. Truth is, all such ventures of faith begin with God
 - i) Faith is always responsive, believing God
- d. Believe God loves to sow such ideas into minds
- e. First challenge – be open to God's leading
 - i) Love yesterday's reading in Joshua 3– leaving room to follow God – to see Him move

7. How do we know if a ViF is from God?

- a. **First – don't be turned off by impossibility**
 - i) Think many dismiss God's promptings here
 - ii) God likes the impossible
 - iii) Leaving "God Room" –Bob Pierce
- b. **Second - Run ViF's through faithful friends**
 - i) Doesn't share with dad...knows not helpful
 - ii) Shares with Armor bearer – he encourages
 - iii) Good wisdom to run ideas by others
 - A. Often happens with me—many times, shot down
- c. **Third - Look for proof that God is in it**
 - i) One of the most important things-need
 - ii) Jonathan's plan of checking this
 - iii) Our story of Katie going to Hungary

8. When you know a ViF is from God...act on it

- a. Watch Jonathan devour the distance...
- b. Watch Jonathan taking on all the Philistines

9. As wonderful as ViF's are – know not all are thrilled

- a. Saul hears about it...not happy, jealous

II. Faith is Submissive

1. Faith is not creative...it is responsive

- a. In its essence – it is hearing, believing, responding
- b. That is true in doing Ventures in Faith...but more

2. Faith is also humble, accepting God's plan– submissive

- a. Faith means we accept God's ways, plans
- b. See this also in Heb 11 – right after list of doing great things for God – those who accepted trouble

3. Jonathan's faith shines in acceptance

- a. God choose David to be king–over Saul, over Jonathan
- b. Imagine for a moment
- c. Saul could not handle – fought all days of life
- d. Jonathan...accepts it, embraces it

4. Faith accepts God's choices

- a. True in world
- b. True in Ministry
 - i) Even though...many times those whom God exalts...don't deserve it
 - ii) God chooses the foolish things
 - iii) So – to serve with someone, under someone, may have to reckon you are smarter
- c. True in Marriage

III. Jonathan's Faith falls short

1. Jonathan is one of the shining lights of Bible
 - a. As study his life – Bible says nothing bad about
2. Only one weakness that Bible students struggle with
 - a. Yet–before we talk about it–Bible never addresses
 - b. So I do so hesitatingly – not firmly, just thought
3. Question: Why didn't Jonathan join David?
 - a. I mean if he accepted David as God's choice
 - b. How come he never left Saul to serve w/David?
 - c. Could be–what God wanted. Never says-possible
 - d. Could be-that family triumphed over faith
4. Danger of anything triumphing over our faith
 - a. Jesus said He – would divide families-**Matt 10:34-39**
 - b. Not saying it is always true...but is often true
 - c. Tell you this – should be true more than it is
 - d. Sadly many churches are “family infested”
 - i) The issue should be – what does God have – often isn't
 - e. Have families join the church
 - i) Then every relative follows them
 - ii) Then have one member leave...all follow
 - iii) Part of me....wonders about
 - f. What should guide you...is God- even if costly
 - i) If this is not where growing – but family is – the go where grow in God, used by God
 - ii) Are acceptations here in this church
 - iii) If this is where growing, come even if family doesn't
 - g. Need to follow God – over all things –even family
 - h. Whether true or not with Jonathan – it is often true in life

Conclusion

Jonathan was a great man of faith

- Faith is Active
- Faith is Responsive and Submissive
- Faith needs to be supreme
 - Believe Jonathan could have been greater
 - Found way into David's mighty men
 - Instead...Jonathan goes down with dad

Gospel

Eph 2:8-9

Saved by grace, that through faith, not of ourselves

Faith...is not just mental

It is active, submissive...

If not in your life, then is not saving faith