

Rise & Fall: Jonathan

Andy Deane · 6/04/2023 · 1 Samuel 13-14

The contrast between Saul and Jonathan show how a lack of faith or a little of faith will determine our actions.

FALL: A Lack of faith leads to apathy or impatience

1 Samuel 13, ...3 Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost...Then Saul had the trumpet blown...and said, "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost"...5 The Philistines assembled...with 3,000 chariots ...and soldiers as numerous as the sand... 6...the Israelites...hid in caves and...7...even crossed the Jordan...and...were quaking with fear. 8 He [Saul] waited 7 days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come... 9 So...Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived...11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling...12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me...and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering." 13 "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart & appointed him ruler of his people"

Having no faith will lead more decisions toward comfort (apathy) than mission.

1. Impatience to wait for God's reward later, causes you to seek a lesser one now.
 - Saul wanted his glory now, instead of when it was promised, so he lied to get credit for this.
 - John 12:43, *They loved human praise more than praise from God.*
 - 1 Corinthians 4:5, *...wait until the Lord comes...at that time each will receive their praise from God.*
2. Impatience to wait for God's timing tempts you to compromise to make it happen yourself.
 - Saul disobeyed Samuel and God's law restricting this action to a priest.
 - The last moments of waiting are most difficult and tempt us to take matters into our hands.
3. Impatience makes weak excuses seem brilliant in the moment.
 - "It was a really bad situation" (14:11) or "It was actually your fault" (14:11)
 - "It was really a spiritual reason" (14:12) or "But my emotions felt so true" (14:12)

RISE: A little of faith leads to corresponding works

1 Samuel 14, ...6 Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost...Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few." 7 "...his armor-bearer said, "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul. 8 Jonathan said, "...we will cross over toward them and let them see us. 9 If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are... 10 But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the Lord has given them into our hands." 11 So both of them showed themselves...12 The men of the outpost shouted..., "Come up to us & we'll teach you a lesson." So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "...the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel. 13 Jonathan climbed up...and...The Philistines fell before Jonathan...14 In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some 20 men... 15 Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God...20 Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords...23 So on that day the Lord saved Israel...

It's not how great your faith is, it's who you put the little faith you have in!

1. Works move against injustice that is contrary to God's kingdom.
 - His father's kingdom was experiencing oppression.
 - James 2:14-18, 22, *14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs,*

what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds... 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

- i.e. Harmony Grillo's work at her non-profit, Treasures (www.iamatreasure.com)
- 2. Works are more impactful when a team serves together.
 - A task which is so easy you can accomplish it alone, isn't that noteworthy.
 - Join with other likeminded believers to pursue kingdom goals together!
- 3. Works should progress prayerfully, in conjunction with God.
 - Jonathan had enough courage to take the next step of faith, but enough humility to ask God to confirm it.
- 4. Works strike a small, but important, blow at an impossibly large enemy.
 - God takes your little spark and creates a raging fire!
 - Leviticus 26:8, *Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.*
 - Matthew 13:58, *And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

How do we move from lack of faith to a little faith?

- READ: Romans 10:17, *...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word...*
- BELIEVE: Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...*
- ACT: James 1:22, *Do not merely listen to the word, & so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*