

## Jonathan and the Big-Picture

*1 Samuel 18:1-4, After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. <sup>2</sup> From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. <sup>3</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.*

**Self-edification and self-exaltation** has become a favorite hobby in many nations. Advertisements take advantage of this theme and tell us we deserve this or that and we have earned it and must take advantage of their products that promote self. Looking out for No. 1 “SELF” is considered a virtue to be highly valued.

Jonathan has an important message for all believers who are told by our Lord that the absolute requirement for following the Lord Jesus and be His disciple is to “**deny self, take up our cross and follow Him.**”

The passage we read says that **Jonathan became one in spirit with David and loved him as himself.** He gave David his royal robe, his tunic, his sword, his bow and his belt.

**We have a picture of total submission of a prince to a shepherd boy!**

While other people in David’s early life were trying to keep him down Jonathan did the opposite. He lifted David up and strengthened him so that he could meet his trials and beat his oppressors.

The two men became close friends soon after David killed Goliath and this friendship lasted a life time.

King Saul, Jonathan’s father was jealous of David and constantly tried to destroy him. The king was furious when people sang, “*Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands.*” One moment David was leading the armies of Israel and the next moment he was he was hiding from the same army because Saul was using it to try to kill David. But in every turn Jonathan helped David.

### **Who was this Jonathan?**

- \* He was the son of King Saul.
- \* He was the prince of Israel and an heir to the throne to become king.
- \* He was a mighty warrior and once killed 20 Philistine soldiers single handedly when climbing up a steep hill.

He was a highly favored officer among the soldiers.

### **What caused Jonathan to put David ahead of himself and serve him?**

From the moment he had met David and saw him kill Goliath, Jonathan understood David’s potential. **He saw the big picture.**

- **Jonathan’s Big-Picture thinking allowed him to see himself from the right perspective.**

We must be able to judge ourselves realistically. If we overestimate our values we may do things just to feed our ego. If we underestimate our values, we may become discouraged and neglect doing the things we can do. The big picture gives us the right picture of ourselves. When Jonathan saw David kill Goliath, he realized that David had the potential to be a better leader than his father or himself. Jonathan realized that he was no longer the best person to ascend to the throne.

- **Jonathan’s Big-Picture thinking allowed him to see others from the right perspective.**

When Jonathan saw himself realistically, he was free to treat others as they deserved. That meant preserving David’s life and serving him. Jonathan knew that helping David would benefit the kingdom more than promoting himself as Israel’s future ruler. Jonathan worked hard to help and serve his friend. He invested his time and energy for David’s success.

- **Jonathan’s Big-Picture thinking allowed him to do what’s right from God’s perspective.**

Often our personal ambition clouds God’s direction for our lives. But Jonathan’s understanding of the big picture helped him understand what God desired, even though it did not benefit him personally. Jonathan gave up his own future on the throne to serve the rightful person who would take it. **The result?** The reign of David was the greatest in Israel’s history. Because he was so deeply committed to David’s future, Jonathan ended up saving the entire nation of Israel from destruction.

**Many a company and organization and nations have collapsed and are no more because people did not see the big picture. So it is most important that we understand and teach and live out the principles of the Big-Picture. The Big-Picture is related to God’s Will and having the right people in the right place.**

## **What is Jonathan telling us today?**

1. **“Only when you see what is important will you be willing to do the seemingly unimportant.** I did not serve David because I lacked potential. **I served him because he had greater potential.** As I look back I have no regrets! My greatest joy was helping David succeed to the throne. Remember it takes a lot of king-makers to make a king!”
2. **“Every time you encounter people with potential you must make a choice.** You can either hurt them or help them. My father chose to hurt him! Sadly, in the end, my father did not hurt David; he hurt himself.”

3. **As a supporter, you share in your leader's success.** When you help a leader, you share in whatever he or she achieves. As I helped my friend David, I knew that I was serving God, and whatever benefits the nation of Israel received came about in part through my efforts. The same is true for you. You don't have to be on the front lines to share in the rewards or make a great impact."

**Some personal reflections:**

Do I see the potential in others or am I so fully occupied with self?

Do I often give up my rights to serve others? Are there times when this is difficult?

Do I realistically see myself and others? When someone is more gifted than me, how do I feel toward them? Do I enjoy serving them?

Am I often placed between friends and family?" How do I deal with this situation?

When I help others and they succeed, do I feel a part of that success? Do I rejoice with them?

Am I lifting someone to higher level at this time in my business or job?

What if any changes need to be made in my business, my school or at my job?

Am I willing to submit all I have to my Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ?