

### **30 Qualities of a Good Leader**

#### *Learning to Lead Like Jonathan*

##### 1 Samuel 14:1-15, 43

- Jonathan was apparently experienced, responsible, and trustworthy, since Saul puts him over a thousand men in another place.
- “He did not tell his father” (Verse 1) - Why would he? Saul was concerned with being the king the people wanted—one like all the other nations—concerned more with subject loyalty, the fear of him in the kings of the foreign nations, battle victories, and an image of strength. What would Saul have told him anyway?
- “Perhaps the LORD will work for us” (Verse 6) - Depends on the LORD, but he makes no assumptions about having His support.
- “The LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few”(Verse 6) - He trusts in the LORD, knowing that nothing limits His power, no matter how few people stand for Him. (What a contrast with his father Saul!)
- “Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet” (Verse 13) - The sincerity of his claims was shown in his actions.
- “Here I am, I must die!” (Verse 43) - He did not make excuses. (E.g. “I was hungry!” “I did not know!” “That was a foolish oath anyway!”)

##### A Leader:

1. Takes the initiative to do what is right.
2. Depends on the LORD.
3. Does not make arrogant assumptions about having the LORD’s support.
4. Trusts in the LORD’s power to accomplish whatever He wills, however He wills.
5. Shows his faith in God with action.
6. Takes responsibility and does not make excuses.

##### 1 Samuel 18:1-5

- “The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself” (Verse 1) - He had a heart of love and compassion, particularly for someone younger than him. He recognized and befriended the good company of those who loved and feared the LORD.
- “Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David” (Verse 4) - He was humble, willing to give up what was his to exalt another.
- “So David...prospered” (Verse 5) - Jonathan, who by custom has the right to the throne, supports another, whom the LORD has chosen.

##### A Leader:

1. Is loving and compassionate.
2. Befriends those who love and fear the LORD.

3. Does not despise the youth who serve the LORD.
4. Is humble.
5. Is selfless.
6. Respects the decisions of the LORD.

### 1 Samuel 19:1-7

- “Saul told Jonathan...to put David to death” (Verse 1) - What does Jonathan do when given an evil order from his father/the king?
- “Jonathan told David” (Verses 2-3) - He is honest and loyal and does not obey orders to do evil, even when the authority behind it comes from his father, who is also the king of the nation in which he lives.
- “Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul” (Verse 4) - He gives seven reasons why Saul should not put him to death: “Do not sin,” David is your servant, “He has not sinned against you,” “His deeds have been very beneficial to you,” “He took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine” (when you wouldn’t), the LORD is on His side, “You saw it and rejoiced.” Jonathan gives Saul every reason why he ought to keep David alive and close to him and then says, “Why then will you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death without a cause?”

### A Leader:

1. Is committed to God’s authority before man’s.
2. Is honest.
3. Is loyal.
4. Practices self-restraint.
5. Is reasonable.

### 1 Samuel 20

- “Far from it, you shall not die...it is not so!” (19:6-7; 20:2) - Jonathan forgives and, at his Saul’s word, gives his father another chance to do what is right.
- “Whatever you say, I will do for you” (Verse 4) - He maintains his friendship and keeps his covenant.
- “For if I should indeed learn...then would I not tell you about it?” (Verse 9) - He determines to find out the truth and is honest, unblinded by familial ties.
- “You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever” (Verse 15) - He considers the future of his household and makes provisions for it.
- Verses 18-22 - He plans and thinks quickly to make wise, calculated decisions.
- Verses 24-29 - He follows through with his plan and makes good on his word.
- “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” (Verse 32) - He defends the innocent.
- “The Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger” (Verse 34) - He was angry, but he did not act disrespectfully or foolishly. He grieves over *David* being dishonored.

A Leader:

1. Forgives and gives second chances.
2. Maintains friendships.
3. Keeps promises.
4. Seeks the truth in any situation from those actually involved.
5. Considers and makes provisions for the future of his family.
6. Thinks, calculates, and plans quickly to make wise decisions.
7. Executes plans.
8. Defends the innocent.
9. Does not act disrespectfully, irresponsibly, or foolishly out of anger.
10. Grieves over the mistreatment of others.

1 Samuel 23:15-18

- “Encouraged him in God” (Verse 16) - He supported David in difficult times with encouraging words to carry on.
- “You will be king over Israel and I will be next to you” (Verse 17) - He trusted in God’s promise and supported God’s cause.

A Leader:

1. Encourages those who are going through difficult times.
2. Trusts in God’s promises.
3. Supports God’s causes.

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