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S. S. LESSON

AUGUST 23.
 I Samuel 120.
 Commit verse 42.
 Read 1 Sam. 18:1-5; 19:1-7; 28:18.

FRIENDSHIP OF DAVID AND JONATHAN.
GOLDEN TEXT:
 "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Prov. 17:17.

EXPOSITION.
 I. Saul's rage at David and Jonathan (vs. 30-35). There is something singularly beautiful in the mutual love of David and Jonathan. The worldly interests of the two were opposed (v. 31). Jonathan was heir apparent to the throne, yet David was the divinely chosen king, yet each quite lost sight of selfish ambition in his love for the other. Jonathan loved David as his own soul (v. 17; 18:3 and at the peril of his own life protected him from the anger of Saul (vs. 32, 33). In doing this he voluntarily renounced his own aspirations to the throne. David or his part bitterly lamented the death of Jonathan, though that death clears his own way to the throne (1 Sam. 1, 17-27). David had been perfectly safe in Natioth. Saul had sent three companies to take him, but the Spirit of God had come upon them and hindered them from carrying out Saul's awful designs. Then Saul himself had been humbled (ch. 19:20-24). There seems to have been little need for David's fleeing from such a place of security as that (v. 1; cf. Ps. 91 1). Jonathan it is true, was a true and mighty friend, but it was better to lean upon the arm of God than upon any arm of flesh. Jonathan coveted to find out for David just what his father's attitude toward him might be. He was to tell him the exact facts, whether they were good or evil. How often we see moral or spiritual peril confronting those to whom we profess to be friends and yet do not warn them. Jonathan had been very confident at first that his father plotted no evil (v. 2), but David had shown him that he might be mistaken. Evidently his confidence in his father was not very deep. So much of the Bible record of Saul's history is taken up with the dark picture of his last days, the days of his disobedience and apostasy, that we forget there was a better time in his history when God was with him (ch. 10:7), when the spirit of God went out to do battle for Jehovah when he was humble, brave, generous, large-hearted and obedient to God. It is this bright beginning of his public life that makes the dark ending so unaccountably sad. This awful change all came because he rejected the Word of the Lord (ch. 15:23). The saddest men on earth are those who are forced to say, "I once knew what it meant to have the Lord with me, but He is not with me now." There are many of whom this is true. Jonathan gave up all at last (vs. 34). His anger and grief were not so much for his father's treatment of himself as for his treatment of David whom he loved.

II. The Parting of David and Jonathan, (vs. 35-42). It would not do for anyone to see Jonathan with David, for that would imperil his own life; so they had arranged a very simple plan so that Jonathan could let David know whether he was safe for him to come out of hiding and at the same time not let anyone else know there had been an communication between David and Jonathan (vs. 18-21). Whatever the perils might be, they must meet at least once more. David did not for a moment distrust Jonathan's fidelity. Jonathan might have good reason to play him false, but he knew he would not do it. Jonathan ought to have gone a step further and have come out of the camp of David's enemies and cast in his lot with him he knew was God's chosen man (cf. ch. 23:16-18). There are many to-day who are willing to help David, but who are not willing to go to Him without the camp bearing His reproach (Heb. 13:13).

III. The Parting of David and Jonathan, (vs. 35-42). It would not do for anyone to see Jonathan with David, for that would imperil his own life; so they had arranged a very simple plan so that Jonathan could let David know whether he was safe for him to come out of hiding and at the same time not let anyone else know there had been an communication between David and Jonathan (vs. 18-21). Whatever the perils might be, they must meet at least once more. David did not for a moment distrust Jonathan's fidelity. Jonathan might have good reason to play him false, but he knew he would not do it. Jonathan ought to have gone a step further and have come out of the camp of David's enemies and cast in his lot with him he knew was God's chosen man (cf. ch. 23:16-18). There are many to-day who are willing to help David, but who are not willing to go to Him without the camp bearing His reproach (Heb. 13:13).

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Sworn Average Circulation Last Year **7,072** For the Morning Daily and the Rural Daily

The following statement of distribution shows the advertiser the value of The Guardian as an advertising medium. A detailed sworn circulation statement will be given to anyone interested for the asking.

Morning Daily Average for 1907,---3,084
 DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS.

Daily average, City of Charlottetown, delivered and street sales... 1,65
 Daily average to towns, villages and country post offices in P. E. I... 597
 Daily average to Canadian cities and United States... 777
 Total... 3,084

Rural Daily Average for 1907,---3,987
 DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

Daily average to towns, villages and country post offices in P. E. I... 3,287
 Daily average to Canadian cities and United States... 650
 Daily average in Charlottetown (advertisers and office papers)... 50
 Total... 3,987

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