

must have been with a sad heart that Jonathan shot the arrows that day and that David in his hiding-place read his fate. It meant that these two friends must part, that David must seek refuge in flight. It was a sad day for both. Bring out that it was Saul's sin which made that day so sad for these two young men, and show how much vicarious suffering there is in the world.

3. *A Heart-breaking Parting*, vs. 41, 42. Note what an affecting scene this is, two of the noblest and bravest men who ever lived weeping as if their hearts would break; and remind the scholars that all great souls have a feminine tenderness as well as a masculine strength. Which of the two friends suffered the more, Jonathan at home with his mad, melancholy father who had lost all self-restraint, or David in his lonely wanderings? Bring out very tenderly to the scholars the boundless love of Christ who suffered so much for us, who wept over those whom He could not save.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Recall the main items in the thrilling, but sad, story of Saul's attempts on David's life: the first hurling of the king's spear (ch. 18: 10, 11); the command to Jonathan and to all the king's servants (ch. 19: 1); the second hurling of the spear (ch. 19: 9, 10); and the sending of soldiers to lie in wait about David's house, ch. 19: 11. In the story of to-day's Lesson we turn from the efforts of Saul to kill David to those of Jonathan to save his friend's life. The Lesson contains a series of rapidly moving pictures, which the scholars should be helped to see.

1. *David alone in the field*, v. 24. Point out that this was part of the plan (see v. 5).

2. *The king at the feast*, v. 24. Question about this, bringing out that it was a religious feast (Ps. 81: 3),—a social meal after a

solemn sacrifice. Show from vs. 25-27 how Saul's envy of David goes with him even here.

3. *A friend's defence*, vs. 28, 29. It is not necessary to justify the deceit practised here, but the scholars should be helped to see what a genuinely brave man Jonathan was, facing even the king's wrath for his friend.

4. *A severe test*, vs. 30-33. Bring out what Jonathan had to endure from his own father,—more than the son had believed was possible. His mother was insulted, he was called a fool for allowing David to stand in his way to the throne, and he is ordered to give up his friend immediately. Point out the patience of Jonathan and the respect which he shows to his father. At last a still harder test comes: Saul attempts Jonathan's own life, an attempt meant to be followed by one on David.

5. *Pierce anger*, v. 34. Raise the question: Was Jonathan's anger right or wrong? Is it ever right to be angry? Refer to Mark 3: 5 and Eph. 4: 26 as helps to the true answer.

6. *A clever stratagem*, vs. 35-40. The scholars will be interested in following out the details. Use it as an illustration of how true friendship always finds a way to serve.

7. *A solemn pledge*, vs. 41, 42. Bring out the following points in this scene of wondrous interest: (a) David's bowing low before Jonathan as the superior in rank; (b) The kissing a common custom in the East, and indeed in Europe, amongst men; (c) The weeping, also truly Oriental. Why was David more moved than Jonathan? Was it because David was receiving, while Jonathan was giving? (d) The farewell words: David's heart too full for words; Jonathan ready to risk all for his friend.

Do not fail, in closing, to point the scholars to Him whose friendship, Jonathan's, beautiful as it is, only faintly and imperfectly illustrates. Who would not have Jesus for a friend?

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Something to Look Up

1. "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Where are the words written?

2. Where does Jesus say: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends?"

ANSWERS, Lesson V.—(1) 2 Cor. 11: 33. (2) 1 John 4: 20.

For Discussion

1. Is it possible to be too unselfish?