

Jonathan and his Armorbearer Attacking the Philistines (1 Sam. 14:1-23)

It was a good, faith-based idea (14:6) for Jonathan and his armorbearer to attack the Philistines without others.

Saul, however, continued to put forth bad ideas, such as not allowing the people to eat (1 Sam. 14:24-46).

I. INSIGHT

- . . The Lord can work through few people as well as through many (14:6).
- . . This was the great faith-based insight of Jonathan.
 - . . because of this insight he was not fearful like other Hebrews (14:11, 22).
 - . . Perhaps Jonathan was thinking of Gideon's 300.
- . . Japanese ecumenical folks stress collective action rather than personal faith.
 - . . Passages like John 17 are used, but Jonathan's biblical insight is not mentioned.
 - . . Personal faith and responsibility is stressed far more in the Bible than they realize.
- . . Saul believed in big armies. So he kept looking for strong men to add to his army (15:52).

D. DETAILS

- . . Jonathan **did not coordinate his action with Saul** (14:1, 17). **Why not?**
 - . . because Saul would have opposed him — because Saul lacked faith
 - . . because acting without others was in line with the insight received (14:6)
- . . The **rock details** (14:4-5) and climbing up on hands and knees (14:13) are included in the account.
 - . . Jonathan's approach was humble (on hands and knees) — rather than warrior-like.
- . . Quite a bit is reported about **the armorbearer**.
 - . . Jonathan was not totally alone. His armorbearer was important as well.
- . . Jonathan's verbal interaction with the Philistines was to determine **how to proceed** (14:8-12).
 - . . This was a practical matter. It also shows that Jonathan did not depend on a secret attack.

E. ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM

- . . Jonathan's faith-based lack of fear is stressed.
 - . . Meanwhile, Saul was trying to come up with courage and a plan through worship.
 - . . But the Lord had already rejected him (13:14) and his priest (14:3).
- . . If Jonathan had been fearful, he would not have had the energy for the difficult climb.

A. ASSURANCE

- . . Their thoughts were faith based. — So they viewed **the Philistines' invitation** as a confirmation.
 - . . There was none of the fearful thinking seen with Gideon.
 - . . If Jonathan had been fearful, he probably would have taken the Philistines' words differently.
- . . Their faith was soon confirmed through **the great victory** the Lord Himself gave.