

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12

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SOME GOOD CHARACTERISTICS OF DAVID.

Recently, while studying the life of David, we were impressed as never before by some of the wonderful characteristics of this man of God. Considering his tests one by one, we have discovered that each one, severe as it might be, brought victory to David and glory to God.

Many critics like to remember David's failures only, often saying, "Even David, who served God so faithfully for a time, failed and committed some horrible sins." That is very true, but we are glad that the Word records the repentance of David, and the goodness of God in forgiving him. Thus if we repent of failure and turn to God, He freely forgives so that failure is swallowed up in victory. Thank the Lord!

Now let us consider some of the good characteristics of David.

(1) He was a God-made man. From a humble shepherd lad, God moulded David into a loving, humble, sympathetic king who was dearly loved by his people, and respected even by his enemies. King Saul, although jealous and spiteful, was at times overcome by his love for this God-anointed youth, and the bitterness and hatred of his heart was dispelled. And finally, after many battles, disappointments, and losses, God exalted to the throne of Israel this shepherd lad, and blessed him with a long and faithful reign.

(2) He was sweet-spirited, always returning good for evil. While Saul was seeking David's life, David had opportunities to destroy this jealous king, but he refused to do so himself, and also restrained his men from doing so. This attitude humbled Saul as it will humble our enemies if we treat them in the same way. Saul wept and said to David, "Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast returned me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil."—I. Sam. 24:17.

Again, when Absalom, one of David's own sons, stole the kingdom from his father, we are won by David's attitude toward him, and eventually, when Job found Absalom and put him to death, David mourned for the son whom he loved. His grief because of the death of Absalom, was greater than his joy over the restoration of the kingdom. Do we maintain such a Christ-like attitude toward those who oppose and persecute us?

(3) He was trustworthy. He kept his promises.

He did not forget his promises to Saul and Jonathan after he became king. I. Sam. 20:14-15. These promises he fulfilled even to the extent of permitting Jonathan's son, a cripple, to eat at the king's table the rest of his life. 2 Sam. 9:7.

(4) He was willing to offer sacrifices to the Lord at a cost to himself.

When he wanted the threshing floor of Ornan on which to build an altar to the Lord, he refused to receive it as a gift from the owner saying, "Nay, but I will verily buy it for the full price, for I will not take that which is thine for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings without cost." I. Chron. 21:21-24. Oh, that we were more like David in this

respect, willing to give our time and talents to the Lord at a sacrifice to ourselves.

God has an experience in grace that will enable us to bear these same characteristics. "Praise His Name."

THELMA ROSE,
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Dear Junior Crusaders:

I wish you could have looked in the Church this morning and seen the fine class of Zulu boys I taught. Because of the absence of two of our native Sunday School teachers, we had just two groups of about 25 each. They showed great interest and so eager to answer the questions asked. By the way they answer you can see how they have been grasping the deep Scriptural truths. These are bound to have more or less influence on their lives. I am just as anxious to see them win a New Testament, at the end of a year's study of the Bible, as they are to get one. So I am taking pains with their memory work. A few from Christian homes can read a little so it is easier for them. But so many of the others can not read and have no one home to help them with their Sunday School lessons.

Today's lesson, from Matthew 7:21-29, fell under the theme of "Obeying God." God blesses and wonderfully cares for those who "heareth these sayings of his, and doeth them." Faith and obedience go hand in hand in our daily walk with God, if we expect Him to "keep" us. Disobedience breaks our fellowship with God.

For illustration they were told the story, found in I. Kings 13:1-32, about "the man of God who was disobedient unto the Word of the Lord: therefore the Lord hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him." "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." (Mat. 7:21). Oh, let us obey God so that He will not have to deliver us unto the lion—the Devil!

I find that the supply of Sunday School cards and leaflets given me to bring out, are going very fast. When I was in Woods Harbor, N.S., I wrote to the Nazarene Publishing Co., asking for quotations for S. S. cards and leaflets left over from the quarters' sales. They said I could have what I wanted if I'd pay the postage, etc. I was about to write them for more, when it just came to me that this is something the Junior Crusaders could do—have them sent direct to me. Others could send me some they may have on hand which you have been saving. I think Book Post is cheaper than Parcel Post. The covers could also be sent if they can be procured. Up until now I have been pasting the leaflets together, making two sided pictures. But quite a few of the children are learning to read English and would appreciate the nice stories.

How the little Zulu boys and girls love to get these pictures! If you could see the joyful looks on their bright faces, and hear the earnest questions about the pictures, I think you would surely feel rewarded already for what sacrifice doing this may mean to you. But you will have a reward awaiting you in

GLEANINGS

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."—Hebrews 12:1.

Remember that we have no more faith at any time than we have in the hour of trial. All that will not bear to be tested is mere carnal confidence. Fair-weather faith is no faith.—Charles Spurgeon.

God wants us to be, not hothouse plants, but storm-beaten oaks; not sand dunes driven with every gust of wind, but granite rocks withstanding the fiercest storms. To make us such He must bring us into his test-room of suffering. Many of us need no other argument than our own experiences to prove that suffering is God's testing room of faith.—J. H. McDuff.

"O Lord, grant that I may never seek to bend straight to the crooked, that is Thy Will to mine; but that I may ever bend the crooked to the straight, that is my will to Thine."—St. Augustine.

"Faith can never reach its consummation. Till the victor's thankful song we raise: In the glorious city of salvation, God has told us all the gates are praise."

IT ISN'T YOUR CHURCH—IT'S YOU!

If you want to work in the kind of a church
Like the kind of a church you like,
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip
And start on a long, long hike.
You'll only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing really new:
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your
church,
It isn't your church, it's you.

Real churches aren't made by men afraid
Lest somebody else goes ahead;
When everyone works and nobody shirks,
You can raise a church from the dead.
And if while you make your personal stake
Your neighbor can make one too,
Your church will be what you want to see—
It isn't your church, it's you.

—Selected

SELFISHNESS, OR SACRIFICE?

"What can I spare?" we say, "Ah, this, and this
From mine array I am not likely to miss;
And here are crumbs to feed some hungry one,—
They do but grow a cumbrance on my shelf."
And yet, we read, our Father gave His Son,
Our Master gave Himself.—Anon.

heaven if you keep true to Jesus.

God bless and keep each one of you, and may He lay a burden of prayer upon your hearts for these Zulu children as you thus help to spread the gospel in their homes.

Yours in Jesus,
GRACE M. SANDERS