

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

APRIL 7, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## *1 Samuel 18:1-4*

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

I do not know what David said to Saul that impressed Jonathan – his faith in God, his humble spirit or the care David had for the people of Israel; but it is clear from this point forward they were kindred spirits. We also know David and Saul will struggle for the remainder of Saul's days. For better or for worse, Jonathan and Saul will represent the two possible responses people in Israel will have to David and his kingdom.

Jonathan provides the most excellent picture of the love that God requires of us toward His Son. This is symbolized so beautifully when Jonathan removes his robe and armor to provide them to David. Throughout the Bible, the robe is the outward representation of authority. In Genesis, it was the robe given to Joseph that symbolized his authority in Jacob's home. Before Aaron died (*Numbers 20:22-28*) his priestly garments were removed so that they could be worn by his son Eliezar. Even in the gospels the woman with the issue of blood looked to just to touch the hem of Jesus robe, the symbol of his authority while he was here on earth. The offering made by Jonathan is not "above the call of duty" but rather the fulfillment of his duty.

Saul's response to David is similar to the disciples; and sadly, of many in the church today – jealousy, competition and self-recognition. The disciples were continually looking to see who would be the greatest in the kingdom, and indignant with any other disciple that seemed to outdo them. Jesus had to continually remind them that the first will be last while the last is first and in *Mark 9:35* "*If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*" Saul failed to grasp this truth as well.

Today, all who are born of the Spirit are given a spiritual gift or gifts to enable them to excel in the ministry they have been called as a blessing to others in the Body of Christ. We can both rejoice in the strengths God has given to others and seek to benefit from their ministry or we can resist them with a competitive spirit. How much criticism of those serving the Lord is rooted in jealousy and envy rather than faithfulness to God and His Word? Let each one here guard against jealousy. Many wonderful things in ministry are obscured by the ugly face of jealousy because we have made ministry about how it will make us appear to the world around us.



**Sunrise Community Church**  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

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## Hymn of the Week

### Jesus Loves Even Me

Words & Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1870  
<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/j/l/o/jlovesem.htm>

I am so glad that our Father in Heav'n  
 Tells of His love in the Book He has giv'n;  
 Wonderful things in the Bible I see,  
 This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

#### Refrain

*I am so glad that Jesus loves me,  
 Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me.  
 I am so glad that Jesus loves me,  
 Jesus loves even me.*

Though I forget Him, and wander away,  
 Still He doth love me wherever I stray;  
 Back to His dear loving arms I do flee,  
 When I remember that Jesus loves me.

#### Refrain

Oh, if there's only one song I can sing,  
 When in His beauty I see the great King,  
 This shall my song through eternity be,  
 "Oh, what a wonder that Jesus loves me!"

#### Refrain

Jesus loves me, and I know I love Him;  
 Love brought Him down my poor soul to redeem;  
 Yes, it was love made Him die on the tree;  
 Oh, I am certain that Jesus loves me!

#### Refrain

If one should ask of me, how can I tell?  
 Glory to Jesus, I know very well!  
 God's Holy Spirit with mine doth agree,  
 Constantly witnessing Jesus loves me.

#### Refrain

In this assurance I find sweetest rest,  
 Trusting in Jesus, I know I am blessed;  
 Satan, dismayed, from my soul now doth flee,  
 When I just tell him that Jesus loves me.

#### Refrain

# SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

## April 2013

April 8-12	Temple City Schools Spring Break
April 9	7:00 p.m. Bible Study
April 12	6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship
April 14	8:45 a.m. Mark 14:26-42 The Essence of Hell 10:30 a.m. Community Prayer in Room 1
April 16	7:00 p.m. Bible Study
April 19	7:00 p.m. Game Night
April 21	8:45 a.m. Mark 14:43-52 Jesus Arrested, Others Barely Escape 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
April 23	7:00 p.m. Bible Study
April 26	6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship
April 28	8:45 a.m. Mark 14:53-72 The Savior's Silence 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
April 30	7:00 p.m. Bible Study
May 4	8:45 a.m. Mark 15:1-21 Pilate, Politics and the Prince

APRIL 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	30	1	2	3

## The Cost of Discipleship –

Pakistani Court acquits Christian on death row for blasphemy

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

A Pakistani court in Lahore, the country's second largest city, has acquitted a Christian man who was sentenced to death for blasphemy six years ago lawyers said Thursday.

Younis Masih, 34, a labourer, was arrested in September 2005 in the low-income Qenchi Amar Siddhu neighbourhood of Lahore after local residents accused him of interrupting a gathering of Sufi singing to make blasphemous remarks.

Masih's lawyer, Naeem Shakir, said his client was sentenced to death in May 2007 and fined 100,000 rupees (\$1,000), but appealed to the high court in Lahore.

"The high court on Wednesday decided to overturn the death sentence and ordered that Masih be acquitted," Shakir told AFP.

"I argued the case in February and put to the court that there is no direct evidence against Younis Masih and that the case was based on hearsay," he said.

Blasphemy is a very sensitive issue in Pakistan, where 97% of the 180 million population are Muslims, and even unproven allegations can spark a violent public backlash.

Rights campaigners argue the blasphemy laws, for which the maximum penalty is

death, are often abused to settle personal scores and should be reformed.

Shakir said his client would be freed "in a couple of days" after he obtained a written copy of the decision and a detailed judgement.

The deputy prosecutor general confirmed the acquittal.

Nadeem Anthony, a lawyer working for the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan also confirmed the acquittal and hailed the high court decision.

Last month, more than 3,000 furious Muslims rampaged through the Joseph Colony area of Lahore, looting property and burning buildings after a Christian was accused of blasphemy.

Surrounding Punjab province was also the scene of one of the worst outbreaks of anti-Christian violence when a mob burned 77 houses and killed seven people in the town of Gojra in 2009 after rumours that a Quran had been desecrated.

