

Saluting Tonto - Bill Pennington

The One Ranger was a cowboy hero of radio and later television. He was an avenger of wrong and champion of the underdog. But his sidekick, Tonto, was right there with him every step of the way. But he was always the sidekick, second fiddle to the man. There are similar examples throughout the Bible. Let's salute this No. 2 men and women.

Jonathon

Son of Saul but friend of David

1 Samuel 13:1

The Israelites were awaiting battle with the Philistines but Saul was afraid to go into battle. Jonathan, however attached an outpost of the Philistines. Rather than being pleased, Saul was upset: now we have made them angry. And Israel had no weapons.

This is the interlude where Saul made the illegal sacrifice.

Jonathan slips out of camp with only his armor-bearer. Vs. 13:6 -Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few. He looked for a sign. They come to an outpost. We will show ourselves. If they urge us to come to them, it is a sign from God that He has given them into our hands. The Philistines see them and say: Come up to us and we will teach you a lesson. In the attack, Jonathan kills 20 of the Philistines.

There follows a panic among the Philistines and they are routed.

While Jonathan was still away from the army, Saul made a command that no one eat anything until the end of the day. Jonathan did not know of the order so he dipped his staff into some honey and ate it. The men told him about it and he said Saul had made a mistake. If everyone had eaten, the victory would have been greater.

Saul decides to pursue the Philistines but a priest convinces him to ask God first. But God did not reply. Saul reasons that there must be sin in the camp. He vows that the guilty party will die. After lots are cast, the guilty party is Jonathan is selected. Saul plans to kill him (his son remember) but the army stands in his way. After all, Jonathan is the hero of the day.

Saul, as a good father declared that Jonathon would eventually die because of this.

1 Samuel 18:1-20:42

After the win over Goliath, Saul became very afraid and ordered Jonathon but to keep him around. David and Jonathon became very close. Read 1 Sam 18:1-4

1 Sam 18:1-4

18 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. 2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. 3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 4 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.

Saul told Jonathon and his attendants to kill David. But Jonathon argues with Saul and agrees that David will not be put to death. David was returned to Saul's house.

Another war, and David comes out as the hero. Saul is not happy.

Saul's daughter, David's wife saves David this time.

Chapter 20 David goes to Jonathon and asks why is Saul so angry with him. Jonathon says Daddy will not hurt you. Let me see what I can find out. But Saul knows that Jonathon and David are close so they devise a plan. David does not go to the New Moon festival and tells Jonathon to excuse him, he has family business.

Saul does not react well. He warns Jonathan that as long as David lives, the kingdom will never be his. He threw his spear at Jonathan.

The signal was for Jonathan to shoot three arrows into the fields. If he called out The arrows are right beside you, then David was safe. If Jonathan said to his aide, run, the arrow is beyond you, Saul is out to kill you.

1 Sam 20:41-42

41 After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side [of the stone] and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together — but David wept the most.

42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

1 Samuel 23:15-18 Jonathan confirms that he expects David to be king and he will be second in command. Jonathan returns with the army. He is killed in the same battle as Saul.

2 Samuel 1:25-27

25 "How the mighty have fallen in battle!

Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother;

you were very dear to me.

Your love for me was wonderful,

more wonderful than that of women.

27 "How the mighty have fallen!

The weapons of war have perished!"

Silas

Silas was chosen, along with Barnabas, to take the letter from the leaders in Jerusalem to the gentile brethren.

Silas was on Paul's second missionary journey and he was Imprisoned along with Paul. We attribute all of their actions to Paul but the scripture says "they" and Paul and Silas. Silas was at least a junior partner with Paul.

In Thessalonica the angry mob searches for Paul and Silas. He travels with Paul as far as Berea but is left behind with Timothy while Paul travels on to Athens.

They rejoin Paul in Corinth.

He is mentioned in 2 Corinthians as one who stood for the faith when he was in Corinth.

2 Cor 1:19-22

19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." 20 For no

matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 21 Now it is God who makes both us

1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 2:1 Silas and Timothy are co-writers to these letters from Corinth.

1 Peter 5:12 Possible from Rome

12 With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it

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Other examples:

Boaz

My mother

People who send encouraging notes

People who send notes of sympathy and concern

People who help create sermon ideas and outlines

Two options:

1. OK, I can do a little and it will enough. I can be like Tonto
2. I can be like Tonto and do my best regardless of what credit I receive. Do all that you can and pray that God is pleased.

Luke 21:1-4

21 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

The rich are not condemned for what they did. They did as they were supposed to do. If you can do a lot, do it. The widow was praised for what she did even though it might not seem like much.