

Introduction

1. David's Lament
2. How ready he is to forgive
3. This tribute to Jonathan

1. HERE WE HAVE A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF BROTHERLY LOVE

- 1) David describes the love of Jonathan here:
 - (i) wonderful
 - (ii) above natural love
EXPLAIN: spiritual love is the love which is between those who have Christ in them.
Cp. natural v. spiritual love.
- 2) Brotherly love is one of the most lovely things on earth:
 - (i) 'loved him as his own soul'.
 - (ii) will avoid hurting or harming
 - (iii) is unselfish: as Jonathan's (Explain)
 - (iv) it is fervent and deeply sincere
- 3) Jonathan had given examples of it:
 - (i) After fight with Goliath: 1 Sam. 18:3-4
 - (ii) He warns David re. Saul: 19:2
 - (iii) The episode of the bow + arrows: 20:35f
 - (iv) The covenant of love: 20:41-42
APPLICATION:
 - Let love be genuine among us
 - Satan can feign in any things – but not real love
 - It is the greatest thing of all

2. WHERE BROTHERLY LOVE IS WE SHALL BE CAREFUL IN ALL OUR BEHAVIOUR

- 1) It can be spoilt by foolish behaviour:
"A brother offended..."
ILLUSTRATION:
 - in Covenanting Times
 - Isobel Hood of Elgin
- 2) Brotherly love needs to be protected:
 - (i) open honest dealings – no deception
 - (ii) readiness to forgive and forget – we all offend at times:
ILLUSTRATION: The parable of Matthew 18.
- 3) Be warm, affectionate, friendly
No coldness – no sharp tongued speech – no vengeance – no unkind thoughts
ILLUSTRATION: "more smooth than butter..."
- 4) Be content to be less than the other:
"Let each one...better than himself."
"Look not...on the things of others"
"...when we are weak, and ye are strong".
APPLICATION: Humble hearts are the places where the dove of true fellowship makes her nest.
It is a great medicine to be able to say, "I am sorry".

3. CHRISTIAN LOVE IS THE VERY BEST WAY TO PROMOTE HAPPINESS ON EARTH

- 1) David owed much to Jonathan's love:
 - (i) it protected him from Saul's jealousy
 - (ii) it cheered his heart in his loneliness
 - (iii) it gave him only happy memories
OBSERVE: So love one another that we shall only have happy memories at last.
- 2) This is the love we shall all have, as believers, in glory at last:
APPLICATION: Heaven is a world of love.

- 3) This is the way God and Christ have loved us: "If God so loved us..."
- (i) See Him on the cross: "Father, forgive..."
 - (ii) See him with Simon Peter: John 21
 - (iii) See him beside Jerusalem: Matthew 23
- 4) It ought to be the love we have for one another NOW (TEXT)

CONCLUSION

O for more brotherly love in all our churches!

PSALMS

122: 1 – 9

106: 1 – 6

133: 1 – 3