

No. 28 Imitate Loyal Ones (Symposium)
 -David

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video and an interview. Follow instructions in assignment letter]

LOYAL TO JEHOVAH'S PRINCIPLES (3 min.)

As lovers of God, we would never want to violate one of Jehovah's laws deliberately

But do we have the same sense of loyalty regarding Jehovah's principles that we have for his laws?

For example, we know that Jehovah feels so strongly about the sanctity of blood that in ancient Israel the penalty for eating blood was death (Le 17:10)

King David respected that law, but he was also loyal to the principle underlying the prohibition against blood, namely, that life is sacred and originates with God

Please open to 2 Samuel 23:14-17, and imagine how this account may have taken place

Under a night sky, David is surrounded by fellow soldiers at the mouth of the cave of Adullam, keeping on the watch for a Philistine raid

David expresses contempt for the Philistines at their outpost in Bethlehem, including how they have no right to invade and defile Bethlehem, his hometown

He longs for the fresh water of Bethlehem

Three of David's mighty men burst into the camp, bruised and wounded, and triumphantly present David with a skin bottle of water from Bethlehem

[Video crew begins video. While the artwork displays, continue describing the account]

As they recount the mission, David, admiring their bravery, says: 'You risked your lives for me?'

About to drink the water, David stops himself and suddenly begins speaking to Jehovah: "Should I drink the blood of the men going at the risk of their lives?"

David pours the water out

The men are astonished and object, but David reminds them about God's law on blood

He commends them for their loyalty and bravery but tells them that their lives are too precious to risk in order to satisfy his craving

He embraces them and assures them of victory over the Philistines and of eventually retaking Bethlehem

The men, clearly grateful for David's respect for life, reaffirm their loyalty to him and to Jehovah

LIFE AND BLOOD ARE SACRED (2 min.)

What David poured out to Jehovah was actually water, not blood

David understood the principle regarding the sanctity of life [Read Leviticus 17:14]

He understood that risking life to satisfy a personal desire could reflect disloyalty regarding Jehovah's view of life (1v 77 ¶7)

Do we show similar loyalty to the principle regarding the sanctity of life?

INTERVIEW (2 min.)

[Interview an elder or a ministerial servant who admits that in the past, before his appointment, he was addicted to violent video games, engaged in thrill sports, or had dangerous driving habits. How did Bible principles lead him to change his behavior? How has he benefited?]

DISPLAY LOYALTY TO BIBLE PRINCIPLES (2 min.)

[Read Psalm 19:8] Our loyalty will spring from a heart that delights to obey Jehovah

Understanding the principle behind God's law on blood moves us to search our feelings regarding violent entertainment such as that found in movies, video games, or comic books (lv 79-80 ¶14-15)

How do we view violent or dangerous sports?

Is our respect for life evident in the condition of our homes and vehicles and in our driving habits?

If we take the time to consider the principles underlying each of Jehovah's laws, our decisions will reflect loyalty to Jehovah (w05 5/15 19 ¶6)

But what can help us to remain loyal if we are given a difficult assignment?

Brother _____ will now handle the next part of this symposium, "Imitate Loyal Ones—Hushai"

TO BE COVERED IN 9 MINUTES

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