Underdogs

John Lasater

INTRODUCTION

- There are numerous underdogs that we read about in the Bible about these different people who had overwhelming circumstances that they overcame.
- Sometimes the greatest temptation is that we give up. You see, the devil can beat us not only in enticing us to do something that's wrong, if he can just get us to quit.
- I want to focus this evening on two specific stories. One is the story of Gideon and his 300. And secondly, we're going to talk a little bit about David and Goliath.

1 Gideon and His 300

Judges 6:15; Judges 7:2; Judges 7:16–22

- Oh my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.
- By using 300 men to accomplish this feat, he demonstrated it was he who was saving them and not their own power.
- The people who are with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself and against me, saying, My own hand has saved me.
- Make no mistake about it. God was with Gideon and the 300, or it would not have succeeded.

2 David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17:42; 1 Samuel 17:38–40; 1 Samuel 17:45–47

- He's going to go to battle against this armored giant with no armor. No armor. Nothing that we would typically consider a lethal weapon.
- You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled.
- The purpose behind why David was taking this challenge had nothing to do with his own pride. It had to do with defending God.
- For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.
- This great story would have had a very different ending had it not been for the fact that David put his trust in the Lord.

3 You Are Significant to God

Matthew 6:26; 1 Peter 5:7

- Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
- If God's providing for these things in creation, aren't you of more value to God than they are?

- Casting all your care upon him, for he cares for you.

4 You're in a Spiritual Battle

Ephesians 6:12

- You may not be facing a giant, but you're in a battle. You're in a spiritual battle.
- We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- With God's help and only with God's help, we can be victorious eternally. We can win not only the battle, but the war.

5 Consider Unconventional Solutions; God Is for Us

Romans 8:31; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Philippians 4:13

- We need to consider unconventional solutions like David did, like Gideon did. Step away from it. Focus on what we can do rather than what we cannot do.
- God wants you to go to heaven more than you do.
- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

6 Look at This Victory from God's Perspective

Hebrews 11:32–40; 2 Timothy 4:6–8

- Others were tortured, not accepting their release so that they might obtain a better resurrection. Were they still victorious? Absolutely.
- Is it worth it to be right with God? Is it worth it to go to heaven and spend eternity with Him?
- I've fought the good fight. I've finished the race. I've kept the faith.
- There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge will give to me in that day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved his appearance.

THE CHALLENGE

I hope that if you're here this evening, your life is not right with God, that you'll make use of this opportunity. Realize that your hope is found in Him.

MY NOTES