

Against All Odds

(1 Samuel 14:1-23)

- Introduction:
1. The Bible contains many great stories that are often overlooked.
 2. I believe this lesson is one of those stories.
 3. If I were to ask you what you know about Jonathan, I might get several stories from his life, but I wonder if this one would be included.
 4. Therefore, let's take a look at it.

I. Background

- A. Things are really bad in Israel.
- B. The Philistines occupy the land.
- C. Most of the men in Israel are hiding and those who stand to fight have no weapons (1 Samuel 13:22).
- D. Saul has been rejected as King and the Kingdom is crumbling.
- E. In the midst of this, we hear Jonathan say, "For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few" (1 Samuel 14:6).

II. Jonathan Has A Plan

- A. (1 Samuel 14:1).
- B. Jonathan acts while his father was sitting (14:2).
- C. He and his armor bearer goes up against the Philistines, defeats them, and causes them to flee.

III. Lessons Learned From This Story

- A. Is our faith active?
 1. Faith in action or Faith inaction?
 2. (Romans 8:31).
- B. Discouragement.
 1. The strongholds of Satan are many, and always have been many (2 Corinthians 10:4).
 2. There has never been an easy time to serve the Lord.
- C. You Don't Need Permission To Fight The Good Fight Of Faith.
 1. (1 Timothy 6:12).
- D. Serve The Lord In Your Youth
 1. Don't use youth as an excuse.
 2. (Jeremiah 1:6-7).

- Conclusion:
1. May we all have the courage and zeal of Jonathan!
 2. Let's all plan and work our plans to further the Kingdom of God.