

1 **TRUE GRIT (PART 2)**

1 Samuel 14

2 **WARRIORS AND POETS**

- A step-by-step, verse-by-verse, story-by-story walk through the Unified Kingdom period of Israel: the kingships of Saul, David, and Solomon.
- We begin our series by looking at Saul, a deeply-interesting, conflicted character.
- Much more than the villain in the David story, Saul begins full of promise and ends in tragedy.

3 **JONATHAN'S VENTURE**

- *One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side." But he did not tell his father. (1Sa 14:1)*
- Jonathan resolves to go over to the Philistine garrison, with the initial plan of either scouting it out or attacking it – it's not clear what his initial plan was.

4 **TRUE COURAGE**

- 1) Courage chooses action over self-pity
 - While Saul was busy feeling sorry for himself, having been deserted by most of his men and chastised by Samuel, Jonathan saw an opportunity for God to work through him.
- 2) Courage knows where glory belongs
 - Jonathan understood that it is no difficulty for God to give victory by numbers either small or great.

5 **DIFFICULT TERRAIN**

- *Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba. (1Sa 14:4-5)*

6 **DIFFICULT TERRAIN**

- The Israelite and Philistine camps are separated by a narrow passage between two sharp, sheer faces of rock. In a narrow passage like this, numbers were significantly less meaningful.
- One or two men can defend a passage like this much more effectively than an open space, making it an ideal place for defense.

7 **COURAGE FOCUSES MORE ON GOD THAN ON THE CHALLENGE**

8 **NOTHING CAN HINDER THE LORD**

- More important than his strategy, though, is his attitude toward the battle:
- *Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few." And his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul." (1Sa 14:6-7)*

9 **NOTHING CAN HINDER THE LORD**

- "Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few." Jonathan has more

perspective than Saul.

- He realizes that God's blessing, God's favor, and ultimately God's faithfulness toward his people is what will win this battle - not numbers or strength of personality or religious rituals/experience.
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10 **NOTHING CAN HINDER THE LORD**

- Jonathan's attitude is an echo of Romans 8:31: *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*
- His armor-bearer is inspired by his leadership and motivated by his friendship. Jonathan's confidence in God makes him the kind of person who the armor-bearer is quite literally willing to follow into battle.

11 **THE OFFENSIVE ADVANTAGE**

- *Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us." (1Sa 14:8-10)*

12 **THE OFFENSIVE ADVANTAGE**

- Jonathan purposefully eschews the tactical advantages of the terrain.
- If God wants to grant Jonathan the victory, he can do so without the defensive advantage of the narrow passage between the Israelite and Philistine camps.

13 **COURAGE WAITS ON THE LORD**

14 **WAIT ON THE LORD**

- Jonathan resolves to wait on God's assurance that He will give them victory that day before going into battle.
- This is a critical difference between Jonathan and Saul:
 - Saul seeks to use religion as a stamp of approval on his leadership and actions.
 - Jonathan seeks the blessing of God for acts of great courage.

15 **"COME UP AFTER US"**

- *So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves." And the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor-bearer and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you a thing." And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel." (1Sa 14:11-12)*

16 **"COME UP AFTER US"**

- The Philistines see Jonathan and his armor-bearer and taunt them to come up and fight.
- Jonathan and his armor-bearer take this as a sign that God is going to grant them the victory, and begin the ascent to the Philistine camp.

17 **THE PHILISTINES FALL**

- *Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. And that first strike, which*

Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre of land. (1Sa 14:13-14)

18 **THE PHILISTINES FALL**

- Jonathan and his armor bearer slay about twenty of the Philistines within a short space of time, Jonathan felling the enemy soldiers and his armor bearer finishing them off.
- Although twenty casualties meant little to the Philistines in terms of numbers, the blow was crushing in terms of morale.

19 **THE PHILISTINES PANIC**

- *And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic. (1Sa 14:15)*

20 **THE PHILISTINES PANIC**

- Word of Jonathan's attack would have spread slowly at first throughout the Philistine camp, the story having time to grow and grow as more Philistines fell before the prince and his armor-bearer.
- They begin to panic as news spreads by word of mouth that the Philistines are being attacked and slaughtered by the Israelites.

21 **COURAGE**

- 1) Courage chooses action over self-pity
- 2) Courage knows where glory belongs
- 3) Courage focuses more on God than on the challenge
- 4) Courage Waits on the Lord
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22 **JONATHAN'S SECRET**

- Genuine courage understands that greater odds give God greater glory.
- The panic that Jonathan begins in the Philistine camp would be crucial to the eventual defeat of the Philistines by Israel, as we will see in next week's lesson.