



Week 21 - February 3rd Benaiah the Overcomer – When Opportunity Knocks

Mark Batterson, in his book *"In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day"* writes, "We're like little kids that make their parents crazy by asking one question over and over again: 'Are we there yet?' I honestly think that question reveals something genetically wired into the human psyche. It comes standard. And while we may stop pestering our parents, we never outgrow the desire to know exactly where we're headed and exactly when we'll get there. We want an itinerary with everything mapped out. What I am trying to say in a nice way is this: We're control freaks..." (pg. 87)

Some of the best and worst of life comes at us unexpectedly. What determines if it is best or worst, many times depends on how we determine to view it. Some of our best experiences in life are totally unplanned and unscripted. But it takes courage to face opportunity.

Jonathan faced such an opportunity in 1 Samuel. The battle lines had been drawn and both sides had been encamped, staring at each other for weeks across a ravine, when this chapter begins...

Scripture

Read 1 Sam 14:1-23

Discovery Questions

1. In the first few verses, who initiated the contact between the Philistine outpost and Jonathan?
2. In verse 6, what is revealed about Jonathan's faith in God?

3. What kind of response does courageous action engender in the people around us? (v.7)
4. Can you think of an example from modern day life of someone who took advantage of an opportunity to do something significant for God?
5. In your life, what would be a "big thing" that might be in front of you that God is giving you an opportunity for?

Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

Prayer: Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- God, help me to have eyes to see when the opportunity in front of me is right
- God, help me to see when I have been too cautious in attempting something for You
- God, thank you for the protection You provide to Your children, even when they attempt "too big" things for You