The Valley of the Shadow of Death: Insurmountable Odds

Day 1
Identity

The secret to facing overwhelming odds is found in our identity. Check out this devotional to learn more:

https://www.reviveourhearts.com/blog/your-identity-christ-changes-things/?srsltid=AYCX9vJLVZDMSVRT-Kj7SshpwdoY_ztr5ac4oPTA4nyBibAn31MFfbnn

Where was this woman's identity coming from? If you have the world's approval, does it really change anything? Does God always approve of our actions? What happens when we trust in Him for our identity? How does it give us strength to face overwhelming odds?

Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 2:10

Prayer Topics: Confidence, Training, Strength

Day 2
Faith or Sight?

Goliath can be easily seen, standing in front of David. God cannot be seen. What should David trust in? Check out this devotional to examine the faith of things unseen:

https://lifehopeandtruth.com/life/blog/what-does-walk-by-faith-not-by-sight-mean/

Verses: John 3:3, Hebrews 11:1, Ephesians 1:18

Prayer Topics: Wisdom, Discernment, Trust

Day 3
Deception

There is a theory that has been formed from clues in the text that Goliath had great difficulty with his sight, and was in fact something of a paper tiger. If this theory is true, it means that all of the Israelites quaked in their boots when any one of them, if they had faith, could have been a hero. If this theory is true, there is something poetic about evil being something like an empty suit. It is all show and no go. How do we keep ourselves from being deceived by evil? Check out this message to find out:

https://gracewyoming.com/do-not-be-deceived-god-is-good/

Verses: James 4:7, James 2:19, Romans 12:21

Prayer Topics: Perspective, Power, Glory

Day 4
Truth in Action

In order to overcome the overwhelming odds that David faces, he must not only know the calling of God, he must do more than remember the anointing that he was given, he must in fact live out the truth of those things. Without confidently living out the truth by putting it into action, David cannot hope to overcome what is in front of him. To learn more, check out this devotional:

https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/harvestdaily/greg-laurie-devotion-november-12-2021.html

How many times have we been like the person the devotional describes, reading the menu and wondering why we do not feel full? What areas of your life need more action? What are some of the actions you have considered but not taken? How can you be more obedient to the calling you have been given?

Verses: Hebrews 13:20-21 ,James 2:14-20, Psalm 90:17

Prayer Topics: Fulfillment, Manifestation, Intentionality

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

All of our actions whether noble or bad have consequences which means accountability and the weight of judgment and not revenge. Too often accountability is erroneously understood as revenge and not the judgment of our actions. Many people would rather blame others or their circumstances for their actions instead of taking responsibility for their actions. David's eldest brother Eliab accused him of having a prideful and insolent heart, 1 Samuel 17:28, because he had heard when David had spoken to the men, 1 Samuel 17:22-27. The irony is Eliab's own cowardness was being called into accountability due to the fact that he was one of the ones whose heart became dismayed after hearing the words of the Philistine, 1 Samuel 17:11. When Israel rebelled against God the One who created them by making them His people chose a human king and rejecting Him as their King the consequences of their actions began to be called into accountability by God. Many people try to understand God from the position of looking under the sun

therefore trying to understand God from man's finite futile perspective. Israel sold their birthright by choosing a man to rule over them when they rejected God. In selling their birthright Israel's identity became jaded oftentimes becoming God's enemy instead of the blessing to the nations He promised Abram. Because God is faithful to Himself and that which He created always has a ram in the bush and the ram in the bush was David the one He had Samuel to anoint even while Saul was chosen king by the people. Even with all his flaws David reverenced God. God invites us into His faithfulness in and through Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The ram in the bush God chooses to use is a sign of hope of redemption because He's still looking for whosoever will who chooses to respond to His love in obedience freely that glorifies and honors Him and Him alone.