

An Unlikely Hero

I. INTRO

- A. Everyone loves a good underdog story
 - 1. Rocky, Rambo, the Expendables → well those are all Sylvester movies
- B. The Hero's Journey
 - 1. The call to adventure
 - a) This is the moment when the hero receives a call to adventure, which could come in the form of a message, a dream, or an encounter with a mentor or guide.
 - 2. The refusal of the call
 - a) At this stage, the hero may initially refuse the call to adventure, often due to fear, doubt, or a sense of inadequacy.
 - 3. Meeting the mentor
 - a) The hero encounters a mentor or guide who provides support, advice, and guidance on the journey ahead.
 - 4. Crossing the threshold
 - a) The hero leaves behind the known world and crosses the threshold into the unknown, often encountering tests, trials, and challenges along the way.
- C. I think we like underdog stories b/c we see ourselves as the underdog
 - 1. It's not about what we can do, but about what we might do in the right situation
 - 2. Everyone craves that "one big break" or that "golden opportunity."
 - 3. And there's a sense in which "maybe I could rise to the occasion..."
 - 4. I think we see a lot of that in David's story

II. David is an "Unlikely Hero"

A. 1 Samuel 17:12–58 [12] Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. [13] The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. [14] David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul, [15] but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. [16] For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

- 1. **David is an "Unlikely Hero"**
- 2. Ephrathite Of Bethlehem in Judah
 - a) Samuel, the last leader to thoroughly defeat the Philistines, was the son of an Ephrathite. Now, we are introduced to another.
- 3. 8th Son of an Old Man
 - a) The sons of old men have not done well in 1 Samuel up until this point
 - b) 8th sons in this culture were almost like extras

- (1) They weren't getting the inheritance (physical)
- (2) They weren't getting the blessing (spiritual)
- (3) They got stuck w/ the sheep
- 4. Youngest (Smallest)
 - a) We are told (as we already know, of course), "David was the youngest" or the smallest (v. 14a)
 - b) He was perhaps too young (perhaps 'too small') to have joined the army.
- 5. **David is an unlikely hero.** He's small, he's young, and he's brother #8. None of these things necessarily make him a primary choice for a heroic job like killing Goliath
- 6. **For us:** This is encouraging b/c it's not about how big you are, how old you are, your birth order, or anything else.
 - a) God says that we are jars of clay, but we have a glory within that is priceless, the Spirit in us if you're a follower of Christ.
 - b) That's his way of saying that on the outside, you might be normal, but inside, if you are in Christ, there's something different and powerful → something greater in you than in the world.

III. David is a "Called Hero"

A. [17] And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. [18] Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."

[19] Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. [20] And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. [21] And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. [22] And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. [23] As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

- 1. Notice, David isn't looking for trouble or danger
 - a) He's not eager to go down and prove that he's a big boy now
 - b) He's running an errand, he's doing something normal his dad asked him to do
 - c) **NOTE:** This is often when God shows up, church fam
 - (1) In the everyday stuff of life, as you are out and about doing your thing; that's when you get the invitation from God to join him in his work
- 2. But what happens? David hears him.

- a) David sees the situation. He hears the situation. It's a situation that has been going on for 40 days!
- b) How will David respond?

B. [24] All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. [25] And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." [26] And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" [27] And the people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."

1. David is bothered by this situation. He is STIRRED. He's feeling God begin to call him to something. He doesn't have all the details or the answers, but something is there → nagging and gnawing
 - a) He had the anointing
 - b) He has the Spirit
 - c) He has some connections w/ the throne
 - d) He sees this situation
 - e) He sees the need
 - f) He hears about the reward
 - g) He is feeling stirred...
2. This is what God does, by the way. Long before he stirs you to action, he's tilling the soil and prepping the ground, and then he calls. Then he stirs.
 - a) GOD STIRRED PPL TO GIVE → Exodus 35:21: "And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments."
 - b) GOD STIRRED EZEKIEL TO PROPHETIC MINISTRY → Ezekiel 3:14: "The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the Lord being strong upon me."
 - c) GOD STIRS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AND REPENT → Ezra 1:5: "Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem."
 - d) GOD STIRS PEOPLE TO A NEED → Acts 17:16: "Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols."
3. It's that type of stirring David is experiencing right now...
 - a) The army under threat... God being mocked... people afraid

C. David is a "Called Hero," and he is feeling the stirring of the Spirit

- IV. **David is a “Contested Hero.”** What do I mean by that? There’s an opposition that wants to stop him from what he is feeling stirred to do...
- A. *[28] Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, “Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.” [29] And David said, “What have I done now? Was it not but a word?” [30] And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.*
 - B. His brother was kindled against him... He accuses him. He mocks him. He presumes about his heart. What did David do that was wrong? Nothing. This is spiritual opposition, but David keeps going. He may be an unlikely hero, even a contested hero, but he’s heard the call... he’s felt the stirring.
 - C. Let’s push into these verses a bit b/c they teach us a lot about spiritual opposition
 1. **Jealousy and Misunderstanding:** His brother is angry and accuses him, showing his own heart’s jealousy, his own feelings of inadequacy and fear compared to David’s boldness → highlights what he lacks
 2. **Judgment and Presumption:** So he reacts by presuming to know David’s heart and intentions, accusing him of evil motivations
 3. **Familial Tensions:** Even those closest to us, such as family members, can misunderstand or contest our actions and motivations, especially when these actions are driven by a divine calling
 4. **Opposition from Within:** Spiritual warfare often involves opposition not just from external enemies but also from within one’s own circle.
 5. **Persistence in the Face of Adversity:** David’s response, in which he turns away but continues to speak his message, shows resilience.
 - a) **David is a contested hero, but he’s committed to the CALL**
- V. So we see that David is an unlikely, contested hero, but a called hero nonetheless. And what amazes me is how parallel these truths are to Jesus Christ. He, too, was an unlikely, contested hero, but a called hero.
- A. UNLIKELY HERO:
 1. **David:** David was the youngest son of Jesse, a shepherd boy, and was not initially considered by his family or by Samuel as the likely candidate for kingship. He was an unassuming figure, not a warrior or nobleman, but a shepherd.
 2. **Jesus:** Jesus was born in a humble setting, in a manger in Bethlehem, to Mary and Joseph, who were not of significant social standing (Luke 2:7).

He grew up in Nazareth, a town from which people did not expect anything significant to arise (John 1:46: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?").

Jesus was a carpenter by trade, not a religious leader or a person of influence before His ministry began (Mark 6:3).

B. CONTESTED HERO:

1. **David:** David faced skepticism and opposition, even from his family and King Saul.
2. **Jesus:** Jesus faced doubt and opposition from the religious leaders

His family said he was out of his mind (Mark 3:21).

Jesus' claims of being the Son of God were met w/ skepticism

C. CALLED HERO:

1. **David:** David was chosen by God and anointed by Samuel to be king

He was called to defeat Goliath and eventually lead Israel, fulfilling God's purpose for him despite the odds by faith in God.

He would fight for a bride and a reward.

2. **Jesus:** Jesus was called by God to fulfill the prophecy of the Messiah, to save humanity from sin and death as the suffering servant

His baptism by John the Baptist marked the beginning of His public ministry and God's affirmation of His anointing and mission.

Jesus' mission culminated in His sacrificial death on the cross and subsequent resurrection, fulfilling God's redemptive plan.

He would die for a bride and all glory.

VI. Conclusion

- A. David and Jesus exemplify the characteristics of being unlikely, contested, and called heroes. **David's story is a signpost pointing to Jesus.**

1. This should give us a deeper appreciation for the beauty of the Bible and the beauty of our King!

- B. This story is about David and, ultimately, about Jesus, but that doesn't mean you have nothing to learn from it for yourself.

1. We should always ask what this means, how it points to Christ, and SPEC

- C. **God calls unlikely people to do impossible things by his Spirit's power, and they should expect opposition along the way.**

1. Unexpected & unlikely people... like you and me
2. Have our spirits stirred to step out by faith and obey God...
3. Yes there is opposition along the way
4. But to those who are willing to step out and follow, God does immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine
5. So walk by faith, and be a part of this story God is writing for His Glory and your good pleasure