

Topic: Seconds From Victory
Text: 2 Chronicles 20:15; 22-23 (NIV)
Theme: “Come up against obstacles and setbacks...
you just have seconds from victory”

Introduction

- This sermon explains that even though we have the sure hope of eternal life as seen in 1 Peter 1, there are times when we are heading into the path of a defeated life.
- We struggle, and sometimes on the brink to surrender. In confusion, we forget to remember that the Creator of the Universe was the same God who wonderfully and fearfully made us, and has an absolute power to manage our own affairs.
- We all go through tough times, but there is always strong reason for hope, to be expectant and excited.
- Look at some Bible heroes (Moses, Jehoshaphat, Paul, Silas) whose lives were not always painted with bright colours. They have gone through the dimmest alley, but they persisted and trusted, and emerged victorious.
- Let us be encouraged that at any point in time, we may be only seconds from victory if we always focus our eyes on Jesus.

I. OT PEOPLE WHO CAME UP AGAINST OBSTACLES & SETBACKS

A. Joseph

Genesis 40

- Note how the cupbearer forgot him when released from prison.

B. Moses

Exodus 14:10-22

- Note how Moses came up against the seemingly unpassable barrier of the sea.

II. NT PEOPLE WHO CAME UP AGAINST OBSTACLES & SETBACKS

A. *Disciples and followers after Jesus was crucified*

Luke 24:17-21

- Note how dejected Cleopas was.

B. *Paul and Silas*

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Acts 16:22-24

- Note how Paul and Silas must surely have had every right to give up after all they had been through.

III. KEY REASONS WHY WE SHOULD COME UP AGAINST OBSTACLES AND SETBACKS

- We should never give up hope, at any point in time we may be only **seconds from victory**, and therefore in such times we should be excited and expectant.

A. *Just because we sometimes cannot see God working, it doesn't mean that He isn't.*

Genesis 41:8-9; 45:5-7

- Explain how throughout all that happened to Joseph, he came to understand that God was at work in everything.

B. *In times of trial, we have the most awesome champions cheering us on.*

Hebrews 11:32-12:1

- Explain how these great champions of the Bible are cheering us on as we run our Christian race.
- Ask the congregation the rhetorical question, if they could have two champions of the Bible run alongside them, who would they choose?

C. Do what you can and God will do the rest.

- Explain how if you do what you can do, God will do what you cannot do.
- Impress on the congregation the SIX words: **I can't, He can, let Him.**
- Impress on the congregation the FIVE words: **Let go and Let God**

D. God is a God of the Suddenly.

Acts 12:5-7

- Note how when God does act, it is so often suddenly. Note Peter's sudden and miraculous escape from prison.

E. Today is Friday, Sunday is yet to come.

Luke 24:30-35

- Re-visit Cleopas in the passage and note how at the times he was so dejected he was going through the gloomy "Friday" of Christ's crucifixion, the glorious Sunday of the Resurrection was yet to come.

F. The King always has one more move.

Exodus 14:13-16

2 Chronicles 20:15; 22-23

Acts 16:25-26

- Revisit Moses in Exodus 14:13-16 and note how God always has one more move, in this case the parting of the sea.
- Revisit King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20:15 and 22-23 and note how God still had one more move and delivered him.
- Revisit Paul and Silas in prison in Acts 16:25-26 and note how the earthquake was God's one more move.