

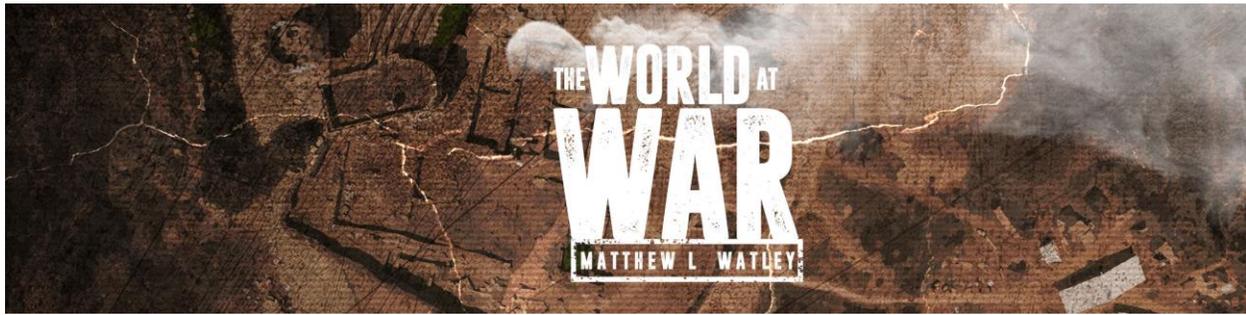
“We Started From The Bottom, Now We’re Here”

1. READ

Scripture: Matthew 10:19-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

21 “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.



Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Matthew 10, 1 Corinthians 1:27; Psalm 70

REFLECT



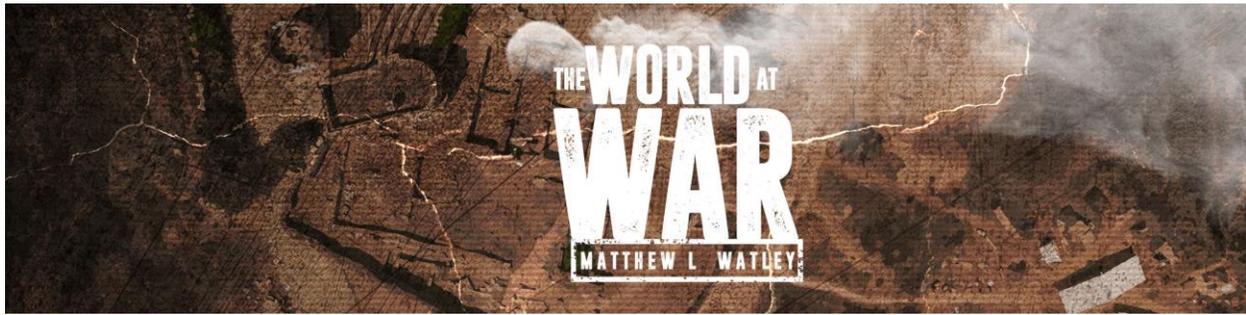
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This week's sermon title is "We Started From The Bottom; Now We're Here." Pastor Watley continues his sermon series entitled "The World At War," and this week brings our attention to the next section in Matthew chapter 10.

He begins his sermon this week speaking about the great musical "Hamilton." This story of fighting and winning and losing helps paint the picture Pastor Watley wants us to see. While we want everything to be easy and straightforward in life, sometimes it is complicated and unclear, but that is the role God has designed for us to win as we trust Him.

Pastor gives the example of David and Goliath as listed in the Bible and Malcolm Gladwell's book with the same name. In this book, he outlines that while David was seen as the underdog, he was the most prepared. Pastor shares these points from the book and scholars:





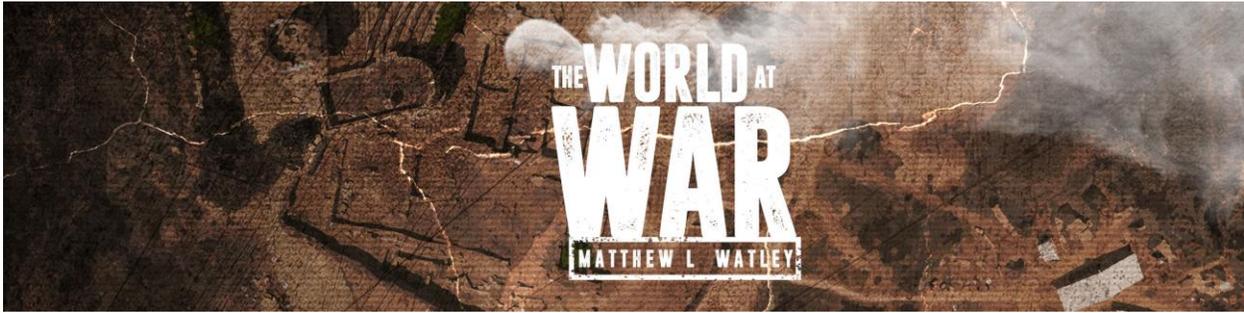
- David's sling allowed him to stay out of reach of Goliath
- David's sling allowed him to use the weapon of his expertise
- David's sling in the correct hands was as deadly, if not more, than a handgun.

- Pastor encourages us to know that David was seen as the underdog, but the underdog had the best odds in his favor. We also must realize that God hasn't designed us to win an easy fight but instead a battle that is worth fighting and trusting God all along the way. Pastor gives the examples of:
 - The people of Israel and how they were picked because of their position.
 - Hadassah, also known as Esther, and how God called her to save Israel despite what people thought.
 - Jesus was born in a different position as to who Jesus was and what He would do for the world.

Pastor reminds us that this is good news because we will always have God on our side as underdogs. The reminder here from Pastor is also that all trouble we get into isn't good trouble because we're following God. No, sometimes we get into trouble because we made some mistakes and made some bad decisions. However, in the midst of our decisions God still decides to ENDURE until the end with us and toward our salvation in Jesus. Pastor Watley shares that the scripture and the Bible are clear when they encourage us not to stop and endure until the end. We need to have

- The will to live on and live well after a loved one has passed away
- The will to risk loving and losing again after your heart has been broken
- The will to live the life of faith boldly no matter how out of touch and off-brand it appears to the culture
- The will to die to oneself daily in order to live for the kingdom of God

This is what Jesus was telling the disciples here that persecution was coming and that when it came, don't worry but know that He is with us. And we can look back on our lives and see that we started in one place, but now we're here. We started from the bottom, but now we're here.



1. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï When was the last time you embraced being the underdog?
- ï Who can you work to encourage yourself the next time a different season comes into your life?

Discussion Questions

- ï What do you think the disciples were saying to each other when Jesus told them they were underdogs?
- ï How do you think those who were persecuting the disciples responded to these words from Jesus?