

The School of Faith

by Carter Conlon

Carter Conlon emphasizes the importance of small acts of faith and obedience in building spiritual strength and preparing for greater challenges ahead.

Duration: 7:04

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:34

Topics: "Faith And Obedience", "Trust In God"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of standing firm in faith and obedience, even in seemingly small or unnoticed tasks, as these are the places where God builds and establishes our faith. It shares powerful testimonies of how God works through simple acts of obedience and faithfulness, even when faced with discouragement or opposition. The message encourages believers to hold their ground, obey God wholeheartedly, and trust that He will bring about miraculous outcomes, regardless of the circumstances.

Transcript

He says, who did you leave those few sheep with in the wilderness? In other words, all you have ever done is some little things and now you want to take on the Giants. I don't know if any of you have ever heard that before. I've heard that a few times over the years.

You've done a few little things. Where do you think David got his faith from? See, he was given a few things to do and he refused to be driven off his ground. Oh folks, a lot of you are being trained behind the scenes now.

Nobody knows it, but you're in the school of faith. You come to church, you don't have a great explosive miracle ministry of any sort, but you are in a place where the devil is challenging you constantly for the ground that God has given you. The ministry God's given you, whether it be a big one or a small one, whether it be significant or not seen, the devil is after, always after you.

And where you are, you are simply refusing to give up ground. David said a lion came and a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock. He could have said, well it's only a lamb, why risk my life for it? It's like somebody in the choir says, well you're supposed to be here four times a month.

Well, I'll only come three. What difference does it make? Oh, it makes a big difference. The moment you let the devil start driving you off any ground, you give him an inch, he'll take a mile in your life.

Not realizing that he's taking away that faith that God is trying to establish in your heart. If God's given you a ministry, whether you're an usher, a cleaner, a person who gives a cup of cold water to somebody in the house of God, do it with all your might and don't let the devil take one ounce of the joy of it out of your heart. It's in these places that faith comes into the heart.

I can't tell you the number of times over the years the devil tried to drive me off the ground that God was giving me. I remember one Christmas Eve having a service out in the country. I'm preaching the gospel and I give a service and two people show up.

One is my son and the other is my brother-in-law. And the enemy's saying, what are you doing this for? Everyone else is home enjoying Christmas and here you are shoveling snow, lighting the heater, coming into this church and only your son and your brother-in-law are here. You better believe the devil attempted.

You see, God knows what's coming after these simple acts of faith. So I made a choice that night. We're having church tonight.

My brother-in-law sang and played his guitar and my five-year-old son shared his testimony and we had a glorious time. I remember one time we went out into a park in a town. We had a band that traveled around and played and I would preach.

I remember we had announced we're coming to this this park and we got there and it started to rain and I'm telling you beloved it poured not just rain it just absolutely poured but we were in a bandshell. There's nobody there. There's not a single soul in this park and so everybody's saying well let's pack up and go home.

The Holy Spirit spoke to my heart said no worship. Start to worship. So we started to worship.

We got the instruments out, started to play, started to worship. After we're done worshipping somebody says well we've had a good time of worship let's go home. The Holy Spirit said preach the gospel.

Now folks that sounds like an absurdity. You're fighting this war inside. This other voice is saying you're crazy.

Just go home. What are you doing this for? But it's more important to obey God and hold the ground. He had given us that ground and so I get up and I preached like there was a hundred thousand people there.

I not only preached I gave an altar call. There is nobody there and I gave an altar call over the PA system. If you're here today and God is speaking to you I want you to know you can come to an altar and your sin can be forgiven.

You can become a new creation in Christ Jesus. I gave an altar call out of the bushes comes a man who had been drinking all night sleeping in the bushes in the park. Makes his way down to the altar.

Staggers all the way down to the altar weeping and crying. The fact that God loves him he can have a new life. From the other side of the field another man starts to come.

Just listen to me. Just got out of jail. He had murdered somebody.

He was trying to reintegrate into society. He was walking down the street saying it's hopeless. I'll never make it.

I'm a murderer. God could never forgive me and he's walking by and hears the gospel of Jesus Christ and comes from the other side of the field to give his life to Jesus Christ. And while we're ministering to these two at the altar I look up and behold two or three I forget how many teenagers.

They had heard because there was nobody there there was a large echo that went through the field and into parts of the town. They started heading towards the voice because there was nothing else to do. And while they were heading towards the voice they heard the whole gospel.

By the time they got to the edge of the park they were ready to give their lives to Jesus Christ. I preached to nobody and five people got saved that day. The devil will always try to drive you off of the ground of faith.

Off the ground of simple obedience to what God has given you to do and to do it with all your heart. Not haphazardly. Not just with a mediocre amount of effort because nobody sees it.

But you do it with all your heart and God will honor that faith because there will come a day when more faith will be needed. There will come a day when you will stand before bigger crowds. There will be a greater battle but you will have learned to obey God in those secret places.

Now David walks through the camp and he says don't let anybody's heart fail. Can you imagine? I'll go fight with this giant. Saul says well you're just a boy and this man's been a warrior from his youth.

David says well listen I've had some battles and I've seen the faithfulness of God. The devil tried to take away what God put into my hand but I killed a lion and I killed a bear and I've seen the power of God and this giant will be like just one of those. And Saul, I don't even know I don't know to this day what Saul was thinking.

Saul said God be with you. Go.

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