Against All Odds
(1 Samuel 14:1-23)

Introduction: 1. The Bible contains many great stories that are often overlooked.
2. I believe this lesson is one of those stories.
3. If I were to ask you what you know about Jonathan, I might get several stories from his life, but I wonder if this one would be included.
4. Therefore, let’s take a look at it.

I. Background
A. Things are really bad in Israel.
B. The Philistines occupy the land.
C. Most of the men in Israel are hiding and those who stand to fight have no weapons (1 Samuel 13:22).
D. Saul has been rejected as King and the Kingdom is crumbling.
E. In the midst of this, we hear Jonathan say, “For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few” (1 Samuel 14:6).

II. Jonathan Has A Plan
A. (1 Samuel 14:1).
B. Jonathan acts while his father was sitting (14:2).
C. He and his armor bearer goes up against the Philistines, defeats them, and causes them to flee.

III. Lessons Learned From This Story
A. Is our faith active?
   1. Faith in action or Faith inaction?
   2. (Romans 8:31).
B. Discouragement.
   1. The strongholds of Satan are many, and always have been many (2 Corinthians 10:4).
   2. There has never been an easy time to serve the Lord.
C. You Don’t Need Permission To Fight The Good Fight Of Faith.
   1. (1 Timothy 6:12).
D. Serve The Lord In Your Youth
   1. Don’t use youth as an excuse.
   2. (Jeremiah 1:6-7).

Conclusion: 1. May we all have the courage and zeal of Jonathan!
2. Let’s all plan and work our plans to further the Kingdom of God.