



SERMON NOTES

Week 2 July 16, 2023

"Chariots of Fire"

1 Corinthians 9:24-26; James 1:2-5;
Psalm 37:23; Isaiah 40:31; Genesis 1:27;
John 3:16; 1 Samuel 2:30



I. Introduction

- A. *Chariots of Fire* is a 1981 historical sports drama based on the true story of two British athletes in the 1924 _____: Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams.
- B. *Chariots of Fire* was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won four, including _____ picture.

II. Training for the Games

- A. Eric Liddell compares _____ to running in a race.
- B. There are five practices that help us _____ for our faith journey: worship, group life, serving, giving and inviting.

III. Responding to Setbacks

- A. Harold is devastated by his loss to Eric and he feels like _____.
- B. James says "Let perseverance complete its work so that you will be _____."

IV. Talents and Abilities

- A. Eric says to Jennie "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and when I run, I feel God's _____. To give up running would hold him in contempt."
- B. Like a proud parent, God especially _____ watching you use the talents and abilities he has given you.

V. Honoring God

- A. Eric _____ to run in the Olympic 100-meter race because his Christian convictions prevent him from running on the Lord's Day.
- B. We are called to _____ God with our words, our actions, our resources and our lives.

VI. Self-Worth

- A. Harold says "I have 10 seconds to prove my _____."
- B. We don't find our self-worth in our accomplishments, we find it in the one who _____ us.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



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INTRODUCTION

Chariots of Fire is a true story of two British athletes, Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, who participate in the 1924 Olympics. Eric is a devoted Christian who runs for God's glory. Harold is Jewish and he runs for acceptance in a culture that was prejudice toward people of his faith. The contrast in motives between Harold and Eric is very noticeable but you can sympathize with both men. So where does the movie point us toward scripture?

Monday: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

The phrase "practices self-discipline" in verse 25 used two words right from the vocabulary of Olympic athletes. The *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* notes: "Participants for the Olympic games had to swear by Zeus to follow ten months of strict training beforehand."* What kinds of sacrifices do Christians make in order to train spiritually? Has self-discipline ever helped you to avoid things that would be bad for you?

Tuesday: James 1:2-5

According to James, God uses difficult circumstances to strengthen our faith. In addition to your faith being exercised and strengthened, what other positive outcomes might result from your current trial(s)?

Wednesday: Ephesians 4:11-13

Eric Liddell says to Jennie "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and when I run, I feel God's pleasure. To give up running would hold him in contempt." What talents and abilities do you have? Do you believe God is pleased with you when you use them?

Thursday: Exodus 20:8-10

Eric Liddell refuses to run in the Olympic 100-meter race because his Christian convictions prevent him from running on the Lord's Day. How do you feel about his decision? Would we be willing to sacrifice our hopes and dreams if those hopes and dreams did not honor God?

Friday: Genesis 1:27, John 3:16

Harold Abrahams says "I have 10 seconds to prove my existence." Does your self-worth depend on your career or accomplishments in life? Have you ever felt like Harold in your life about something you were trying to achieve? Where should your self-worth come from?

MOVING FORWARD

Our Christian journey is like a race and we needed to continually train for it by practicing our spiritual disciplines. When things don't go as planned in our race of life, we need to trust in God and let him continue to mold and shape us. God has provided us with different gifts and abilities to help us in the race and God is pleased when we enjoy and use the gifts he has given us. Above all, we honor God with all we say and do and in the end he will honor us and give us strength.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Olympics, B) best. IIA) faith, B) train. IIIA) quitting, B) complete. IVA) pleasure, IVB) enjoys. VA) refuses, VB) honor. VIA) existence, VIB) created.

**Keener, Craig S. "1 Corinthians." The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament, IVP Academic, Downers Grove, IL, 2014, pp. 479.*