

## **How to Beat the Odds - Part 1: God First**

### **Michael Chandler**

#### **Life will never work until God is first**

(Luke 18:18-23 NLT) “Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.’” The man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.” When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.”

#### **Learn to love God’s presence**

(Mark 1:35 NIV) “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

#### **Make hearing God a habit**

(John 10:27 NLT) “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

(Acts 13:2 NLT) “One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.”

#### **Release God from all resentment**

(Luke 8:41-42) “Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come

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home with him. His only daughter, who was about twelve years old, was dying.”

(Luke 49-50 NLT) “While he was still speaking to her, a messenger arrived from the home Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. He told them, “Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.” But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed.”

(Ruth 1:20 NLT) ““Don’t call me Naomi,” she responded. “Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me.””