

The Best

Beauty and the Beast

LeFou: Wow! You didn't miss a shot, Gaston! You're the greatest hunter in the whole world!

Gaston: I know.

LeFou: No beast alive stands a chance against you. Ha ha ha! And no girl, for that matter.

Gaston: It's true, LeFou. And I've got my sights set on that one.

LeFou: Hm! The inventor's daughter?

Gaston: She's the one - the lucky girl I'm going to marry.

LeFou: But she's –

Gaston: The most beautiful girl in town.

LeFou: I know, but –

Gaston: That makes her the best. And don't I deserve the best?

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
 - Best shot – Jud. 20:16

Judges 20:16 NKJV

Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss.

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
 - Best shot – Jud. 20:16
 - Super warrior – 1 Sam. 17:4-7

1 Samuel 17:4-7 ESV

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him.

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
 - Best shot – Jud. 20:16
 - Super warrior – 1 Sam. 17:4-7
 - Strongest – Jud. 16:2-3

Judges 16:2-3 ESV

The Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." And they surrounded the place and set an ambush for him all night at the gate of the city. They kept quiet all night, saying, "Let us wait till the light of the morning; then we will kill him." 3 But Samson lay till midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and pulled them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron.

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
 - Best shot – Jud. 20:16
 - Super warrior – 1 Sam. 17:4-7
 - Strongest – Jud. 16:2-3
 - Wisest – 1 Kings 4:29-34

1 Kings 3:12 ESV

behold, I now do according to your word.

Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

1 Kings 4:29-34 ESV

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, 30 so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

1 Kings 4:29-34 ESV

32 He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. 33 He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. 34 And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

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 - Super warrior – 1 Sam. 17:4-7
 - Strongest – Jud. 16:2-3
 - Wisest – 1 Kings 4:29-34
 - Most beautiful – Gen. 2:21-23

Genesis 2:21-23 ESV

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
- It is hard to convince others you are best

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
- It is hard to convince others you are best
 - Boasting
 - Arguing
 - Striving
 - Fighting

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
- It is hard to convince others you are best
 - Matt. 23:6-12 – the Pharisees

Matthew 23:6-12 ESV

and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Being the Best is Tough

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 - Matt. 23:6-12 – the Pharisees
 - Matt. 20:20-24 – James and John

Matthew 20:20-24 ESV

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. 21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." 22 Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." 23 He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." 24 **And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.**

Being the Best is Tough

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- It is hard to convince others you are best
 - Matt. 23:6-12 – the Pharisees
 - Matt. 20:20-24 – The disciples
 - Mark 9:33-37; Luke 22:24-26 – after transfiguration and the Lord's supper

Luke 22:24-26 ESV

A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. 25 And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. 26 But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.

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 - Matt. 20:20-24 – The disciples
 - Mark 9:33-37; Luke 22:24-26 – after transfiguration and the Lord's supper
 - 1 Cor. 3:1-4; 2 Cor. 12:20 – the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 ESV

1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

2 Corinthians 12:20 ESV

20 For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish--that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

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 - 1 Cor. 3:1-4; 2 Cor. 12:20 – the Corinthians
 - Gal. 5:20 – works of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21 ESV

Now the works of the flesh are evident:
sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20
idolatry, sorcery, **enmity, strife, jealousy,**
fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions,
divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies,
and things like these. I warn you, as I
warned you before, **that those who do**
such things will not inherit the kingdom
of God.

Being the Best is Tough

- It is hard to be the best
- It is hard to convince others you are best
- Bad things happen to the best
 - 700 Benjamites
 - Goliath
 - Samson
 - Solomon
 - Eve
 - All the rest (Eccl. 9:11)

Ecclesiastes 9:11 ESV

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but **time and chance happen to them all.**

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- Bad things happen to the best

Better Ways of Being Best

- Changing the field of competition

Better Ways of Being Best

- Changing the field of competition
- Making the best of the worst

Making the Best of the Worst

- With ourselves
 - When we crucify the old man (Rom. 6:6) and allow Christ to live in us (Gal. 2:20)
 - When we put to set aside the works of the flesh and begin bearing the fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:19-25)
 - When we stop seeking significance through being better than others and begin seeking significance through being like Jesus (2 Cor. 10:12)

Making the Best of the Worst

- With our relationships
 - When we bless those who curse us and pray for those who spitefully use us (Matt. 5:43-45)
 - When we stop needing others to acknowledge us as better than them and start serving them in the name of Jesus Christ (Matt. 20:25-28)

Making the Best of the Worst

- With our circumstances
 - When we do not demand the best from this life, because we already have something infinitely better than the best this world can offer, Jesus Christ
 - When we joyfully accept trials, pain and suffering because of what we have in Christ (2 Cor. 12:9-11)
 - Phil. 4:11-13

Better Ways of Being Best

- Changing the field of competition
- Making the best of the worst
 - With ourselves - Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Gal. 5:19-25; 2 Cor. 10:12
 - With our relationships - Matt. 5:43-45; Matt. 20:25-28
 - With our circumstances - 2 Cor. 12:9-11; Phil. 4:11-13

Children of God have the Best

- The best promises
- The best faith
- The best hope
- The best Savior
- God gives the best, Himself

You Don't Deserve The Very Best, But You Can Have It

- Hear the Gospel (Rom. 10:17)
- Believe it (Mark 16:16)
- Repent of Sin (Acts 2:38)
- Confess your Faith (Rom. 10:9-10)
- Be Baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)
- Allow God to make the best of your worst
- Receive the Very Best from Him