

## 21. David and the dwarf – Part 2

3/14/2019

In this room all of us have faced a seemingly insurmountable giant at least one time or another, it could have been a Goliath of a marital situation, financial situation, legal situation, or spiritual situation. One thing we MUST NOT forget is that any of those Goliaths was only allowed to come to intimidate and threaten us because the Lord approved it in order to train us, to shape us, to mold us, and most of all, to use us for His glory.

The giants of life can defeat us again and again if we face them in our own strength. Or we can face them with our Lord's strength. I believe that the Lord has a great lesson for us here tonight.

### A. WARMING UP

*1 Samuel 17:40-43 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. 41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. 43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.*

Both hilltops now come alive with commotion and excitement, all eyes fixed on the two combatants on the valley floor. Finally, there is going to be a fight – well, kinda one-sided fight. In their mind, it was, "How long will it take for Goliath to mutilate this boy?"

Much to Goliath's dismay, a shepherd boy comes trotting out to fight him. He is expecting, after 40 days taunting, their king Saul would come out since he is head and shoulder taller than anyone in Israel.

This is not a fair fight. It isn't Goliath and his armor bearer against David. It is Goliath and his armor bearer against David and the Lord God of Israel. The battle is already over before the start.

### B. LOOKING UP

*1 Samuel 17:44-47 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."*

Please give me your interpretation of this portion.

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David is not intimidated, because he knew that the battle is the Lord's. This perspective will be the hallmark of David's life. Is it ours, too? Are we facing a giant of our

own – mistreatment, fear, sickness, financial difficulties, discouragement, or guilt? Remember, “The battle is the Lord’s.” Not ours. Our part is to trust His power, as David did. Because He specializes in “hopeless” situations, using the window of our weaknesses to shine through His strength and magnify His name.

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

The Lord often chooses to use unconventional means to accomplish His purposes. We expect Him to act using conventional means; and when there are no conventional means available, we get worried. But God doesn’t save us with spear and sword. It is His battle. It is easier for people to see this truth if God uses unconventional weapons, and He often does.

The beautiful thing about this story is that it’s a perfect example of how God operates. He magnifies HIS name when we are weak. We don’t have to be eloquent or strong or beautiful or physically fit or handsome. We don’t have to be well-traveled or brilliant or have all the answers to be blessed of God. He honors our faith. All He asks is that we trust Him, that we stand before Him in integrity and faith, and He’ll win the battle. God is just waiting for His moment, waiting for us to trust Him so He can empower us to battle our giants.

Remember, Goliath is still a giant. Still an imposing 9 feet 9 inches presence. David had all the odds against him. There wasn’t a guy in the Philistine camp – or probably the Israelite camp either – who would have bet on David. But David didn’t need their backing. He needed God – none other. After picking up the stones, he ran to the gigantic Philistine warrior.

The shepherd boy made the giant mad because Goliath took this as an insult. Just imagine! David stood not intimidated in front of this massive creature who is just about twice taller than him.

Intimidation – That’s our MAJOR battle when we face giants. When they intimidate us, we get tongue-tied; our thoughts get confused; we forget how to pray; we focus on the odds against us; we forget whom we represent, and we stand there with our knees knocking. I wonder what God must think, when all the while He has promised us, “My power is sufficient. There’s no one on this earth greater. You just trust Me.”

Be assured, David’s eyes weren’t on the giant. Intimidation played no part in his life. What a man! His eyes were fixed on God. With invincible confidence in his God, David responded in v47. There it is. That’s the secret of David’s life. “The battle is the LORD’s.”

Are you trying to fight with your own strength? Trying to do things your way? Trying to outsmart the enemy, outfox him? You can’t. But God can. And He’s saying to all of us, “You do it My way and I’ll honor you. You do it your way and you’re doomed to fail. The battle is Mine.”

### **C. WRAPPING UP**

*1 Samuel 17:48-51 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet*

*the Philistine. 49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.*

Who has an interpretation of this section for me?

David's confidence enrages Goliath. He is supposed to be fearful in front of this giant. Fearlessly, David runs to within range. I am sure that the Israeli soldiers on the hilltop are thinking, "This is going to be ugly."

David's smooth stone that is propelled from his sling actually has more power than any slingshot. The Holy Spirit launches that stone into the forehead of Goliath with enough strength that it penetrates his skull bone into his brain. A perfect headshot. One shot, one kill!

As the big frame of Goliath's body falls, you could hear David yelling, "Timber!" I guess we can say, "Goliath was really stoned and out cold." By the way, did you know Goliath's friends used to call him "Golly." Now that he is dead, they can say, "Bye, Golly."

Everyone else thought, "Goliath is so big, I can't beat him." David thought, "Goliath is so big, I can't miss him."

We see the great faith in God by David here. But in chapter 21 we will witness the same David having a serious doubt in God's protection for him. Have you ever had doubts about your faith? Have you ever wondered if it is really all true? If so, don't be too hard on yourself. Some Christians are reluctant to admit that they have any questions at all.

I think that we sometimes have the idea that questioning God is an act of spiritual treason or betrayal, or that doubt is an unpardonable sin. Listen, everyone has moments of doubt. Even John the Baptist – the cousin of Jesus, the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, and the direct forerunner of the Messiah – had them. After he had been arrested and imprisoned, he sent word to Jesus, asked him:

*Matthew 11:3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"*

Doubt is not always bad. Oswald Chambers said that doubt is not always a sign that a man is wrong; it may be a sign that he is thinking.

It has been said that skepticism is the first step toward truth. Chuck Swindoll said, "It is the right of every believer to go through the halls of doubt on their way to rooms of truth."

Here are comparisons between skepticism and unbelief:

There is a difference between doubt, skepticism, and outright unbelief.

- Skepticism is "can't believe." Unbelief is "won't believe."
- Skepticism is honesty. Unbelief is stubbornness.
- Skepticism is looking for light. Unbelief is content with darkness.

An unbeliever has no intention of changing or believing. They will offer up the well-worn excuse, but the fact of the matter is that, even when confronted with evidence to refute their unbelief, they will reject it outright. That is because they do not want to believe.

On the other hand, the honest skeptic will change, when presented with the facts. That is because they had truthful and heartfelt questions about God and His Word. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that.

#### **D. MOPPING UP**

*1 Samuel 17:52-58 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents. 54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent. 55 When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is." 57 Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."*

With a shout of the victors, the Israelis chase the Philistines back to their hometowns, killing as many as they can catch and plundering their camps.

Why is it that Saul did not recognize David? Some time passed between chapter 16 and 17. Besides, Saul could care less for a shepherd boy from Bethlehem who played music for him in the background when the distressing demon tormented him.

#### **E. REMINDERS**

##### **1) Trusting God is a stabilizing experience.**

*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

It's amazing how calm David was. It was as if he knew the outcome even before he stepped into the battle. And he knew, because he knew His God. That's the nature of true faith. God of David who destroyed the giant, will also destroy your giant if you step out into the battlefield with trust in Him. Please remember that we don't fight for victory, rather we fight from it.

##### **2) Knowing that Jesus won the ultimate battle against satan and death for us is a calming experience.**

David won a great victory, but not greater than the victory Jesus won on our behalf. David's victory over Goliath is a "picture in advance" of the victory Jesus won for us.

- Both David and Jesus represented their people. Whatever happened to the representative would happen to God's people also.
- Both David and Jesus fought when their enemy was able to dominate the people of God through fear and intimidation alone.
- Both David and Jesus were sent to the battleground by their fathers.
- Both David and Jesus were scorned and rejected by their own brothers.
- Both David and Jesus fought the battle without human strategies or conventional wisdom.

- Both David and Jesus fought a battle where the victory was assured even before it started.