

Fighting Against Goliath

A Lesson from the Life of David

Fighting Against Goliath

During our last lesson, we learned that King Saul had displeased the Lord by not being obedient to His commands. Samuel, the Lord's prophet, begins the search for a new king and finds David, an humble, young boy who has a good heart.

Because of his disobedience and arrogance, King Saul is tormented by an evil spirit and the Lord sets it up such that David is able to relieve Saul's suffering by playing a harp. Saul is pleased with David and invites him to remain in his service.

Without David knowing it, the Lord has placed him in the right place to begin his transition to the kingship.

Dealing with Goliath-sized problems?

In I Samuel 17, we find that young David deals with his first major challenge—facing off against Goliath. We have all heard this great Bible story before, but let's study it with a different perspective. Hopefully we can gain some insight as to how the Lord would have us to handle the BIG problems we face in our own lives.

Goliath-sized Problems...



Have you ever been intimidated by something or someone?

- I Samuel 17: 4-11
 - Goliath is a Philistine giant and he is certainly an intimidating warrior. He is in full armor and over nine feet tall. Because Goliath knows his own mighty strength and power, he abuses it and uses his physical prowess to terrorize the Israelites. Goliath wants war and he challenges the Israelites to find a man to come down and fight him. Upon hearing Goliath's words, Saul and the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Have you ever known someone who had power, but they used it and abused it in the wrong way? How did you deal with them?
- 2) Is there anything going on in your life that has you worried or intimidated right now? Do you have a strategy as to how to face this challenge? If so, what is your strategy?
- 3) Why do you think King Saul and the Israelites responded to Goliath's threats by being "dismayed and terrified?"

Are you willing to stand for God?

- I Samuel 17: 25-33

Upon hearing how Goliath is terrifying and defying Israel, David volunteers to step up and fight him. Notice that as David attempts to learn more about Goliath that his older brother, Eliab, gets angry with him.

Saul also questions David's readiness and notes that Goliath has been a fighting man since his youth and therefore young David doesn't stand a chance if he goes out to fight him.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Why does David's brother, Eliab, get angry with him? What's behind his anger? Are there any lessons we can learn from Eliab?
- 2) What is the significance of King Saul's initial reaction to David's suggestion that he be the one to fight Goliath?
- 3) Have you ever had anyone doubt your ability to accomplish something? What impact did their doubt have on you?

Has the Lord delivered you before?

- I Samuel 17: 34-37
 - David is confident in his ability to face off against Goliath because the Lord had helped him in battle before. *David figured that the same God who delivered him in the past would deliver him yet again.*
 - Life Lesson: God has delivered you before, hasn't He? If He delivered you before, then you should be confident that He will come to your rescue, yet again...

Armed with God

- I Samuel 17: 38-47
 - David tries on Saul's armor and then decides not to wear it into battle against Goliath. David notes that the suit of armor is too big for him, but he also seems to think that he doesn't need armor or weapons.
 - Question for Thought: Why doesn't David need more protection? What is the lesson for us as Christians?
 - In Verse 45, David notes that Goliath comes with the "sword and spear and javelin" but that he comes "in the name of the Lord Almighty." When we fight our battles, with what equipment should we arm ourselves with? What type of attitude should we have?

The Battle is the Lord's...

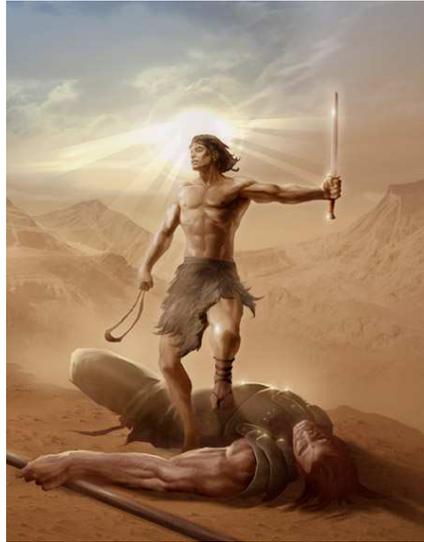
In Verse 47, David says, “for the battle is the Lord’s.” What does he mean by that statement?

- Question for Thought: Have you ever known the Lord to lose a battle? Have you ever known Him to lose a battle even against overwhelming odds?

Never back down from a challenge...

- I Samuel 17: 48-51
 - Notice that young David doesn’t back down when facing this GIANT problem. The Bible says that David “ran quickly toward the battle line” to meet Goliath. David was *itchin’* for a fight. He was ready!
 - *Life Lesson: Never back down from a problem or situation that is bigger than you. Face life’s issues with confidence and courage.*
 - David wins his battle against Goliath and is triumphant. What does David’s story tell us about the big battles we face in our own lives?

David is triumphant with the help of the Lord...



Commentary

The story of David and Goliath should give us all strength and hope as we face the Goliath-sized problems in our own lives. David had courage and confidence because he knew God's awesome power and knew that God would deliver him once again just like He did in the past. David was successful against Goliath because He had the help of the Lord.

With God on your side, the impossible is possible! Face your big problems with **BIGGER** courage and **BIGGER** confidence. When the Lord is with you, there is nothing to fear. Live your life in a way that pleases God so that you can be confident that He is on your side as you deal with life's big battles.