

#13 - David and Goliath - 1 Samuel 17

Engage:

- The last lesson was the beginning of the siege of the Promised Land by the Israelites (the battle of Jericho). This began just over 40 years after they left Egypt. This was just the first of many battles that Joshua led. (See the book of Joshua.)

- After Joshua's death, the next series of leaders for Israel were called judges. (You may or may not choose share a quick summary of this period in Israel's history. See the book of Judges.) These judges were like rulers or army generals. Some of the most familiar names include Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah and Samson. During this time Israel went through a continuous cycle of **SINNING** ("In those days, Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit" - Joshua 22:25), followed by being taken into **SERVITUDE** by an enemy. They became **SORROWFUL** and sought the Lord to bring them a deliverer (a judge). The judge then led them back to freedom (**SALVATION**). They enjoyed this period of time until they became **SILENT** in their worship and lifestyle before the Lord. Then they started the cycle all over again (**SIN, SERVITUDE, SORROW, SALVATION, SILENCE**). Point: We are no different than they were when we are honest with ourselves. This period of time lasted about 300 years.

The period of judges was followed by the kings. The first king was Saul, who was followed by David. This takes us to our story. The story of David and Goliath is a familiar story that has several practical applications that will always apply to the lives of people. For example, all of us face "giants" of one kind or another. We must remember that we can overcome them only through the power of God – and not by our own or any other human strength.

Thoughts about the story:

vv. 1-11 – The story is introduced

The story begins with the Philistines and the Israelites preparing to face each other in battle. A giant from Gath named Goliath presented a challenge to let the battle only between him and one other man from Israel. If he lost, the Philistines would become subjects of the Israelites – and vice versa.

vv. 12-30 – David goes to see his brothers and hears Goliath defy armies of Israel. David is then introduced into the story. He had served in Saul's court earlier (1 Samuel 16), but must have been sent back home, possibly because of the battle with the Philistines. David was the youngest son of Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse's three oldest sons were in Saul's army. David was periodically sent to take food to his brothers. On one occasion when David took food to his brothers and a gift of cheese to the commander over his brothers. He went to the battle lines where his brother were and heard Goliath speak defiantly toward Israel. This went on for 40 days. When the Israelites saw Goliath, they ran in fear. Note: The Israelites must have lost faith in the covenant promise from God that the Promised Land would be theirs. Here they were fearing a man and not trusting God to provide.

David was told that Saul had promised the following to anyone who would go against the giant: 1) great wealth, 2) his daughter in marriage and 3) his family would be freed from taxes.

David's brothers did not take kindly to him being present. David then went to others gathered for battle and must have said that he would go against the giant. Point: David is seen as completely different from Saul and the others in his approach to facing the giant.

Point: What is your attitude toward the "giants" you face? What "giants" do you see defying God and the Christian faith today? What can you or your small group personally do to be a "David:?"

vv. 31-37 – David volunteers to fight Goliath. David was convinced that he could defeat the giant. David's faith and courage was based on his experience when God helped him deliver his sheep from the lion and bear.. Saul found out that David was willing to fight the giant, he called for David to come to him. He also tried to discourage David from going against the giant. But David prevailed. Saul said: "Go, and the Lord be with you."

Lesson: Satan always has somebody to tell us "it can't be done." David had both his brothers and Saul. How about you?

Lesson: David had been prepared by defeating the lion and the bear – knowing it was through the power of God that he had seen victory. Meeting God in private prepares one to take a stand for God in public. When we are faithful to God in our private battles and see Him prevail, we will have the confidence to know that God will see us through the tests which are public.

vv. 38-40 – Saul tried to help prepare David for battle.

Saul offered to David his armor, but this did not work for David for he was "not used to them." David instead took a sling, his staff, five smooth stones and went out to face the giant.

Note: Use the abilities you presently have to face your "giant", depending on God to do the rest.

Note: It can be assumed that David knew the story about how Gideon lead Israel using weak weapons (trumpets, pitchers which they broke, torches and their voices) to defeat the Midianites under God's direction (See Judges 7). He knew that God could defeat the enemy of Israel again. God's weapons today include prayer, His word and the faithful lives of believers.

vv. 41-54 – David met and defeated the giant

Goliath verbally made fun of David, seeing him only to be a boy. (He did not realize that in fighting David, he was also fighting God.) David replied to Goliath that he was not alone. He said told Goliath that he came "in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom your defiled" (v. 45). He told Goliath that he would be killed. The result would be that all would know that "it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's (v. 47).

David ran to meet the giant. He took a stone from his pouch and slung it at Goliath, hitting him in the forehead. The giant fell to the ground. David then took the sword of Goliath, killed him and then cut off his head.

When the Philistines saw this, they ran. The faith of David was contagious. The men of Israel and Judah then pursued the Philistines and killed many of them along the road to Gath and Ekron. The Israelites returned to the camp of the Philistines and "plundered" it. "David

took the head of Goliath and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent" (v. 54).

Note: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you, wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). Remember this verse from VBS last summer?

vv. 55-58 – Saul wanted to know more about who David was after he killed Goliath. After all, the man who killed Goliath was promised Saul's daughter. It is possible that Saul did not recognize David because of his state of mind after being rejected by God as king (1 Samuel 15) and the Spirit of God had been taken from Saul (1 Samuel 16:14-23).

He was not aware that Samuel had already anointed David as the 2nd king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13).

Extra:

The following was taken from from *Daily Walk*, March 2003.

"Do you see life from God's perspective? Here's a quick way to find out. Simply answer these three questions honestly:

1. Do you see a calamity in every opportunity, or an opportunity in every calamity?
 2. When confronted with a Goliath-size problem, do you respond, "He's too big to hit," or like David, "He's too big to miss"?
 3. Do you feel that you've been put out to pasture, or do you see your present circumstances as proving grounds?
- If you chose the second response to each question, then you see life from David's (and God's perspective . . . the perspective that views one plus God as a majority in any situation . . . the perspective that enables you to walk with God when you are at peace and when you are pursued.
 - If your perspective needs sharpening, then spend some extra time reading Psalm 139, a page from David's diary that shows the heart attitude God delights to find."