

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 18TH-19TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

WEAPONS (1 SAMUEL 17:33-40) GOING BACK TO 1 SAMUEL 16:7

After David is brought to Saul to confirm he wants to fight Goliath, Saul initially rejects his offer because he judges his probability of success by his stature, age, and experience.

- God wanted Saul to learn what Samuel learned: **"Humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart."**

GOD HAD ACTUALLY PREPARED DAVID FOR THIS

David tells Saul he had to defend his flock against bears and lions, and because Goliath defied God, he was just another violent predator.

- **Life experiences, especially hard ones, prepare us for greater challenges. We must learn to trust God's ways of developing our character.**

TRYING TO BE SOMETHING HE WASN'T

Because Saul lacked the Spirit of God, he still couldn't see how David could win. So, he tried to dress him in military clothes and armor, but David "was not used to them" and felt awkward.

- This looked ridiculous. In fact, **whenever we try to live outside of what God has designed us to be, we're detoured and look foolish.**

ONLY THE CREATOR HAS THE POWER TO FIX CREATION

Saul thought battles were only won by worldly methods. The problem was this fight had spiritual connotations, and **the people of God are to approach adversity differently.**

- Modern culture has proven to lack the ability to fix society. This is why we're to **lean on the principles and teachings of the Word.**

A STAFF, SLING, AND FIVE SMOOTH STONES

David trusted God's strategy and was confident in who he was in the Lord. **He trusted the weapons God had used to protect him in the past, and he went out to face the giant.**

- God still gives us weapons and tools (Gifts and Fruit) to help us in life's battles, but **we must walk in a relationship with Him!**

CONFIDENCE (1 SAMUEL 17:41-47) A DEEP HATRED

As Goliath slowly came forward, David quickly approached. When David was closer, Goliath realized he was "just a youth, healthy and handsome." This made Goliath burn with hatred because he felt insulted and offended.

- **There will always be an irrational vitriol for people who display confidence in God.**

INTIMIDATION TACTICS

People who dishonor God threaten God's followers, typically with shouts and intimidating words, but **without truth, there's no substance to the attack.** David wasn't provoked because **he knew God and who he was in Him.**

- **If we live in Christ, we live in peace and security regardless of adversities.**

MEETING THE LIES AND THREATS WITH TRUTH

David responded to the threats with assurance that God and His ways would win the battle and secure His people.

- **When we're met with threats, gossip, or slander, we must approach the lies with truth and rest assured that ultimately, God wins, and so do we if we trust Him.**

"THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT ISRAEL HAS A GOD"

David's miraculous victory over a seemingly unconquerable enemy will show the power of God. A similar victory will happen at the end of time when "every knee will bow" in the realization of the true God (Philippians 2, Revelation 6).

- **There is comfort in the knowledge that all evil will eventually be held to account.**

"IT IS NOT BY SWORD OR BY SPEAR..."

David understood that no matter how much talent and innovation one has, if they oppose God, they will inevitably fall.

- God may use our talents and innovations to accomplish His will, but **we must remember everything good comes from Him, and He is gracious to let us be stewards.**

NOT JUST THE BATTLE, BUT THE WAR

David knew the Philistines wouldn't keep their word and relent to the Israelites when Goliath was killed, but he was confident God wouldn't just give him Goliath but all of his enemies.

- **We have to remember that God is for us (Romans 8), and if we live in obedience to Him, we will experience true success in life.**

DECISIVE (1 SAMUEL 17:48-58) LESS TALK, MORE ROCK!

When the talking stopped, the action immediately began. As Goliath moved forward to attack, David "ran quickly" towards him, grabbed a stone from his pouch, slung it, and hit Goliath so precisely that the stone sunk into his skull, causing him to collapse.

SLINGS WERE ACTUALLY PRETTY AWESOME

Slingshots in David's time were the equivalent of sniper rifles today. Many ancient armies employed sling shooters to hit targets, often moving ones, from long distances.

- Though David **appeared to be at a disadvantage, God had prepared him to be the perfect person to kill this giant.**

FINISHING THE JOB

Once Goliath was down, David grabbed his sword and beheaded him. Once the initial shock wore off, the Philistines fled. The Israelites pursued and killed them, leaving bodies "strewn all along the...road to Gath and Ekron."

- As a young man (20ish), David stepped up and did what King Saul refused to do.

WHY TAKE GOLIATH'S HEAD?

No one is positive as to why David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem.

- One possibility was to show the Jebusites (an evil Amorite tribe that controlled Jerusalem until David's reign) that **coming against God and His people would have dire consequences.**

AN INCOMPETENT KING

In a bizarre account, it seems like Saul has forgotten who David is, or at least who David's family is. This could've been from his hectic schedule or that his mind had become clouded by tormenting spirits (ch. 16).

- **We see that failure and confusion follow a rejection of God and His principles.**

DON'T TAKE BEARS AND LIONS FOR GRANTED

- We often wonder why difficult situations arise in life. If we are faithful and trust His process, God will not only equip us to withstand those times, but **He will also use those experiences to mature us into people who can conquer even the most brutal "giants."**

BE CONFIDENT IN WHO WE ARE IN GOD

- There will always be a unique hatred of the things and people of God, but **we cannot get sucked into believing lies or being thrown off by intimidation tactics.**
- A relationship with Jesus is one of truth, security, and peace. **By knowing Who He is, we can be confident in who we are!**

STRENGTH COMES FROM RELYING ON GOD

- Our strength, wisdom, and courage are derived from walking closely with Jesus through **prayer, the Word, and obedience.**
- Every day has its challenges (Matthew 6:34), but a daily relationship with Christ **empowers us to keep the enemy at bay and live in freedom, joy, and peace.**

WEAKNESS COMES FROM SELF-RELIANCE

- On the other hand, **reliance on self will eventually result in failure and confusion.**
- We live in an era of self-worship, and the more we gravitate to the creation over the Creator, the more we spiral into violence, chaos, hatred, hopelessness, and confusion.

TRUST THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL

- It often looks like we are underdogs in a fight we cannot win.
- It will appear to get worse before it gets better, but **rest assured that the wheat continues to grow alongside the weeds (Matthew 13), and the Savior will eternally save those who've dedicated their lives to Him!**