

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 19TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

FULLY PREPARED (1 SAMUEL 17:33-40) DAVID VOLUNTEERED TO FIGHT GOLIATH

David did not look around and say, "Someone should do something about this!" Instead, he said, "*I will do something about this.*"

- Instead of waiting for someone to do something about the "Goliath" in front of us, **we need to pick up a stone and do something.**

SAUL'S EARTHLY PERSPECTIVE

Saul waited 40 days to hear someone say they would fight Goliath, but when that came from a little shepherd boy, Saul tried to talk him out of it.

- Saul held an **earthly perspective**, saying, "Because of his age, size, and experience, there is **no way he will win.**" A **heavenly perspective** says, "Because the living God is on his side, there is **no way he can lose.**"

"THIS... PHILISTINE WILL BE LIKE ONE OF THEM..."

David responds to Saul's doubt by saying, "**Your servant has killed lions and bears....**" This displayed his protection of the sheep and preparation from God for Goliath.

- God has loved and protected David all his life while preparing him for this fight. **A good shepherd lays his life on the line for the flock** (1 John 3:16).

CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

David was confident God would rescue him from the hand of Goliath because **God was faithful to rescue him from the lion's paw and the bear's paw.**

- **God is faithful to sustain us**, promising that, as His creation, **He will carry us and rescue us** (Isaiah 46:4). **God will strengthen us and guard us from the evil one** (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

THE BEST ARMOR

Saul tried to give him his armor for protection, but David did not need it as he had heavenly protection.

- Saul's armor was not a good fit for David. We often try to fight with another person's armor. We see God work through another person, and we attempt to replicate it without realizing it.

DAVID HAD ALL HE NEEDED

By casting off Saul's armor, **David trusted God and God alone.** David went to the brook and gathered five stones, and with his sling in hand, he approached the Philistine.

- When it comes to trusting God, we often want to keep a "safety net" if it doesn't work out. **God had already given everything to David that he needed to be victorious over Goliath.**

FILLED WITH FAITH (1 SAMUEL 17:41-47)

A "SMALL" VICTORY

The way verse 41 is structured gives the impression that Goliath had to look around to be able to see David, and when he "**looked and saw David, he despised him.**"

- There was nothing about the appearance of David that struck fear in the heart of Goliath, but only because **he could not see the power in David** (1 Samuel 16:7).

NOT A FAIR FIGHT

Goliath, the Philistines, and, unfortunately, Israel believed this was an unfair fight. Goliath towered over this shepherd boy, had armor and weapons, and an armor bearer, making it two against one.

- Everyone incorrectly thought the disadvantage was with David. The battle was over before it began because it was **Goliath and an armor bearer against David and the God of Israel.**

TRUTH WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL

Those who oppose God are quick to try to humiliate and threaten God's people, but just like Goliath, their threats are empty and lack power.

- **David responded to Goliath's threats with truth: the reality of the situation** ("*You come against me with a sword, spear, and javelin...*") and **the reality of whom Goliath defied** ("*...the Lord of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel...*").

"...FOR THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S."

It was one thing for David to tell Saul that he would kill Goliath, but now he looks out and tells Goliath that he will kill him.

- David never said he would kill Goliath so people would recognize him as the great warrior who defeated the Philistine champion, but **so the entire world would know of the victory the Lord gave him.**

"HE WILL HAND YOU OVER TO US."

David was bold, but it was a boldness in God and not himself. **All the earth would know** Israel had a God who was more powerful than all the men of the Earth and the weapons they used. David said, "**... this whole assembly will know,**" referring to Israel.

- **The people of God needed to be reminded of who their God was.**

FACING GIANTS (1 SAMUEL 17:48-58)

WE OPERATE IN TANDEM WITH GOD

Goliath charged forward to attack David, and David responded by running "quickly to the battle line to meet" Goliath.

- David fully trusted the Lord, was obedient, and prepared for battle, but **he still had to pick up the rock, and when the time came to fight, he had to act.**
- "**The lazy-bones of our orthodox churches cry, 'God will do his own work'; and then they look out the softest pillow they can find, and put it under their heads and say, 'The eternal purposes will be carried out: God will be glorified.'**" That is all very fine talk, but it can be used with the most mischievous design. You can make opium out of it, which will lull you into a deep and dreadful slumber, and prevent your being of any kind of use at all." (Spurgeon)

IDOLS CAN'T STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Philistines watched their champion **fall on his face**, and when he was dead, they abandoned their battle formations and ran.

- As Dagon fell on his face in the presence of the living God (1 Samuel 5:2-5), **the worshippers of Dagon also fell in the same way in the presence of the living God.**

"PULLED [THE SWORD] FROM ITS SHEATH..."

David used Goliath's own sword to kill him and cut his head off.

- "**They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have dug a pit before me; into the midst of it they have fallen**" (Psalm 57:6 NKJV). Often, **the weapons used against us will be the destruction of our attackers.**

"WHOSE SON ARE YOU, YOUNG MAN?"

Did he recognize him and **want to know more about his future son-in-law whose family was now tax-exempt** (17:25)? Could he **not see him, had his appearance changed** (17:15), or **was Saul not in his right mind** (16:14)?

- Whatever the reason Saul asked about David's family, it shows **there had been a shift in the closeness of Saul and David.**

PUTTING ON SAUL'S ARMOR

- **Whose armor are we putting on and putting our trust in—the armor of man or the armor of God?**
- **Are we looking for earthy security** (money, job, possessions) or heavenly security (storing up treasures in heaven)?
- **We are to put on the spiritual armor of God.**

PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD (EPHESIANS 6:10-18)

- God's full armor protected David, and it allows us to be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power when facing our Goliaths.
- If we are not spending time in the Word and praying, we will also say what David said of Saul's armor, about the armor of God: "**I can't walk in these... I'm not used to them.**"

OUR PERSPECTIVE CHANGES EVERYTHING!

- **What is our perspective of the Goliath in front of us? Are we focused on the giants in our lives, or is God the focus?**
- All of Israel looked out at Goliath and said, "*He's too big, and there is no way I can defeat him.*" David looked out at Goliath and said, "*He's too big, and there is no way I can miss him.*"