

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### OPPOSITION (1 SAMUEL 17:1-11) READY FOR WAR

It's been 27 years since the Philistines were defeated at Michmash, and now that they had recovered their strength, they were ready to wipe out Israel. Saul gathered his army and prepared for a conventional war.

- **We will have victories, but the enemy always prepares for the next battle. Will we be ready?**

### THE SETTING

Probably because of the difficulty of the terrain, the Philistines sent Goliath to challenge an Israelite champion to a one-on-one battle to the death.

- **The enemy will always try to set the terms of battle for their benefit. If they convince us we are alone, we begin to doubt the path to victory.**

### THE CHAMPION

Some question whether Goliath's size is exaggerated, but the description of his armor seems to demand a man of his size. Goliath was a giant in stature, strength, and word.

- **The enemy will always try to make problems, challenges, and circumstances seem big, unmovable, and undefeatable.**

### WHY EVEN TRY?

Goliath's size and words to Saul's army defeated them before the battle began. Goliath said that he defied the ranks of Israel. They believed him and were terrified. David wouldn't hear it the same way.

- **When everything seems on the line, what we do next will say a lot about who we believe.**

### OBEDIENCE (1 SAMUEL 17:12-24) DAVID

We are reintroduced to David, his father, and the three oldest brothers. Some time has passed since David became the king's musician, and war has caused him to be released from his responsibilities in the king's court. As his father has aged, David may have had as much responsibility tending to him as he did tending the family's sheep.

### DUTY

Again, we see David faithfully doing the job he is called to do. Shepherd, caregiver, musician, and now he is to deliver food to the front lines for his brothers and their commander.

- **We are called to be faithful where God would have us serve. Faithfulness now will prepare us for the next opportunity.**

### OBEDIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Each time we see David called to another opportunity, he remembers his responsibilities. He made sure the sheep were cared for in his absence, and he left the supplies in the care of the quartermaster.

- **Obedience never calls us to ignore our responsibilities. Serving well means the job gets done, even when we can't be there.**

### UNEXPECTED

David was to bring the supplies and verify that his brothers were well. The army had marched into formation for forty days, only to retreat in fear of Goliath and his words.

- **David was there, spoke with his brothers, and heard Goliath's decree. But his reaction was different than all the Israelite men. David had what Israel needed.**

### CLARITY (1 SAMUEL 17:25-32) INCENTIVE

It seems that a rumor had started that whoever killed Goliath would receive the king's daughter, riches, and tax exemption.

- **David asked the question several times to establish that the troops knew what was on the line. But they still were not prepared to defend Israel, no matter the reward.**

### OFFENDED

Each time Goliath would make his speech, he would offend Saul and the armies of Israel. When David heard the challenge, he knew the Philistine defied the Living God.

- **David seems to be the only one who sees what is really happening here. His question apparently brings conviction to some of the soldiers.**

### ACCUSED

David's brother, Eliab, accuses David of leaving his responsibilities and says David has a wicked, arrogant heart that only wants to watch the battle that hasn't happened.

- **We shouldn't be surprised when we share the truth and find resistance or persecution... even in the modern church culture.**

### WHAT HAVE I DONE NOW?

David's response indicates that his brother has questioned his motives before. But David gives a controlled reply: "It was just a question." David wasn't distracted by false accusations.

- **When we have clarity of vision and are serving faithfully, Satan will try to distract us from our mission.**

### YOUR SERVANT WILL GO

David knew this wasn't about Israel, Saul, or the opponent's size. The real insult wasn't from Goliath; it was the disbelief that plagued the people. David knows and believes in God and is willing to do what must be done.

- **We know that God will bring the victory. Are we willing to serve Him and do what should be done?**

### FEAR

- Life is difficult, and it's easy to become critical, judgmental, and terrified.
- **It will take courage to follow Christ and to call sin, sin.**
- **"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment" (2 Timothy 1:7).**

### GUIDED

- As we follow in obedience, God will guide us along the way.
- **Living a Spirit-led life means that every decision is in the will of God and for the Glory of God.**
- **We follow in obedience, God guides us, and we begin to see. God gets the glory, and we get a fulfilled life.**

### ENCOURAGED

- A fulfilled life means knowing we follow faithfully, and others will see it.
- **Believers should be in the habit of encouraging those who are following Christ, not comparing faith and motives.**
- **The world will criticize and give bad advice. When will we trust in the Lord and live courageous lives?**