

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 19TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

INTERVIEW (1 SAMUEL 17:33-40) YOU CAN'T GO

David has been polling the soldiers to see if they understood what was at stake. All he found was fear. He boldly states that he will fight the Philistine. Saul hears about this youth stirring up the troops and calls for him. Then, he quickly points out that David is too inexperienced to fight a seasoned warrior.

- **Faith and courage aren't based on age.**

EXPERIENCE

David responds by sharing his battle experience with large predators. David knew how to protect his sheep, and Goliath was just another predator to him.

- **As we face our circumstances, we must remember that God has given us victories in the past, and He is with us now as we follow Him.**

RESCUED

David knew that God was the one who had rescued him when he faced lions and bears. Today, he trusted that God would save him again.

- **David would enter his battle with God by his side. We have God by our side, but unlike David, we have an army of believers ready to stand with us.**

THE WRONG EQUIPMENT

Saul still didn't understand David's true strength and tried to make him more battle-worthy with ill-fitting armor. Instead, he took the weapons he already had: a staff, a sling, and a heart that trusted God.

- **We may be tempted to pick up their weapons as we face opposition. We already have what we need.**

THE RIGHT ARMOR

It looks like David was going into this battle without armor, but Saul and all the soldiers couldn't see what we know.

- **David's armor was much like ours: truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer (Ephesians 6:13-18). We must trust God and follow His strategy in every battle.**

BATTLE (1 SAMUEL 17:41-51) FAMILIAR STORY

The story of David and Goliath may be one of the most famous stories ever. Even if you have never heard it, it's strikingly similar to a modern action movie with its trash talk and graphic imagery.

- **What is the message? Why have we taught this one to our children for the last 2,000 years?**

THE WRONG MESSAGE

This has become the underdog story: No matter the odds, you can do it! Believe in yourself! Trust God, and you can conquer all the "giants" in your life!

- **The problem is, we're not like David. We may be able to draw some strength and encouragement, but this is a story about Christ, who is like David.**

DESPISED

Goliath came closer to David and recognized that he was a young man with no "real" weapons. So, he mocked him, cursed him, and clearly defined how he would kill him.

- **Jesus was despised, rejected, accused, mocked, and crucified. He wasn't the messiah that was expected; He didn't seem to have the weapons of a king.**

A CLEAR VICTORY

David told Goliath what would happen and how the world would know that the God of Israel was real.

- **Jesus spent three years telling His disciples and even His enemies that He was the lamb of God. He would sacrifice Himself but would return in three days. The world would know that God is real.**

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

David stands alone but is fighting for all of Israel against an unbeatable enemy. His faithful service has revealed his humility, but we also see confidence in God's ability to keep His promises.

- **Jesus went to the cross alone, opposed by His brothers and abandoned by His friends, to face sin, shame, and death.**

DAVID RAN

When it came time for battle, David didn't hesitate. He ran to the enemy and attacked. He then ran to the fallen giant, removed his head, and raised it for all to see.

- **At the appointed time, Jesus went to the cross and died as a sacrifice. His resurrection is proof, for all to see, that He defeated sin, shame, and death.**

IMPACT (1 SAMUEL 17:52-58)

THEY RALLIED

With the Philistine champion dead, they fled in fear while the armies of Israel rallied and chased them back to their own borders.

- **One shepherd boy's courage and victory over the undefeatable foe had given them a new strength to fight.**

THE SPOILS OF WAR

As a common custom, they plundered the Philistine camp when the army returned. David gathered Goliath's armor and sword to go along with the head he had tucked in his backpack.

- **It may seem grisly, but those trophies would remind David and Israel that the Lord could be trusted to give victory.**

WHOSE SON IS THIS YOUTH?

Saul knows David, but the years have caused him to forget David's father. It seems that Saul may have wanted to reward David's family or acquire David for full-time service.

- **Saul knows who just won the victory: David and Israel. His jealousy would begin to burn as David's victories would make him known to all the kingdom.**

EQUIPPED

- As followers of Christ, we will face opposition.
- **God has given us past victories that strengthen our faith and give us courage.**
- **We aren't weak because we're young. We are weak because we don't put on the armor of God. We must follow His plan, not our reactive desires.**

GOLIATHS

- David defeated Goliath. Jesus defeated Sin and Death. We are not David or Jesus.
- **We will face "lesser giants" as we live.**
- **Because Jesus absorbed the wrath of God in our place, we can have confidence in the face of every other challenge. Our courage comes from having something that "giants" can't take from us: Jesus.**

ENGAGED

- Israel hid until their champion won. Our Champion won 2,000 years ago.
- **We have an opportunity to enter the battle between truth and error, faith and superstition, the true and living God and dead idols.**
- **Will we follow Christ for the sake of our families, friends, neighbors, and enemies?**