

## Facing the Giant

1 Samuel 17:1-58

November 15, 2009

### Intro

As we continue our study in 1 Samuel we come to the story of David and Goliath. As we studied last week, Saul is king in Israel, but because of his disobedience, God told him that he would search for another man who had a heart after God.

So when we come to chapter 17, David had already been anointed by Samuel, but he is still a youth and not yet ready to become king. But in chapter 17, we see the amazing strength of David's faith as he volunteers to face the Philistine giant Goliath.

The Philistines had gathered their armies for battle and took their stand on the hills which lie to the west side of the valley of Elah while the Israelites drew up in battle array on the east side of the valley.

Then a champion came out from the army of the Philistines whose height was over 9 feet tall. If there could be one word to describe Goliath it would be intimidation. His armor was bronzed so it would shine in the sun and the shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam. For 40 days he challenged Israel to send out a man to fight in a "winner take all" challenge.

Saul would have been the obvious choice since he was head and shoulders taller than anyone else in Israel, but for 40 days no one could be found to face Goliath.

David entered the scene completely oblivious to the problems facing Israel and the challenge of Goliath. But God was raising up a man who would become the greatest king of Israel.

The application for our lives today is that we all face giants in our lives and the example of David's faith becomes the key to our victory as well.

### **I. God is Preparing Your Life**

- 1 When David heard the taunts that Goliath was shouting to the army of Israel, he became incensed. "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"
- 2 When the words which David spoke were heard, someone told them to Saul, and he sent for him.
- 3 David then volunteered to face Goliath saying, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."
- 4 Saul tried to explain that he would not be able to fight Goliath for he was just a

youth.

- 5 But David's response gives us great insight into what God had been doing in David's life up to that point. He was preparing David for the calling he had placed on him.

A. God changes the heart first

- 6 One of the most important things we know about David is that he had a heart after God. But what we need to understand is that men are not just born with a heart after God.
- 7 In fact, what the scripture tells us is that man is born with a very dark heart.

**Jeremiah 17:9, The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?**

**Illus –If you've raised kids at all you know this is true just by watching them play with other kids. No one has to teach them how to be selfish.**

**Illus – A report from the Minnesota Crime Commission has captured the universal tendency toward evil:**

Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what we wants, when he wants it – his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toy, his uncle's watch. Deny him these wants, and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness, which would be murderous, were he not so helpless. He is dirty. He has no morals, no knowledge, no skills. This means that all children, not just certain children, are born delinquent. If permitted to continue in the self-centered world of his infancy, given free reign to his impulsive actions to satisfy his wants, every child would grow up to become a criminal, a thief, a killer, and a rapist.

- 8 So God must first change the heart.

**Ezekiel 36:26, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."**

- 9 How does He do this?

**Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."**

- 10 This change of heart can happen when someone is young, or when someone is old. The key is that the heart must be changed.

B. God is forging an excellent spirit

- 1 Alan Redpath once said, *“The conversion of the soul is the miracle of a moment, but the making of a man of God is the work of a lifetime.”*
- 2 What David told Saul was that he had already fought many battles and won. He had been watching the sheep and if a lion or a bear came and took a lamb, he went after him and attacked him and killed him.
- 3 David was a shepherd and would give an account for each of those lambs, that’s why he would make a good king.

**Luke 16:10, “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.”**

- 4 But it also says of David that he was anointed by the Holy Spirit who came upon him mightily.
- 5 He is the same Holy Spirit that is given to each and every believer who trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ for new life in Him.

**Zechariah 4:6, Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”**

### C. God blesses the heart that loves Him

- 6 When we look at David’s heart after God, what we really need to see is the love that David had for his Lord.
- 7 When David was in the field watching the sheep, he was playing his harp and writing psalms to the Lord.
- 8 David wasn’t planning on submitting these psalms to a publisher, dreaming about the great acclaim he would one day have. He was loving his Lord with his heart and God loved him for it.

**Psalm 23:1, The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

**Psalm 8:3-4, 9, When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?... O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

**Psalm 19:14, Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.**

- 1 It was the heart of David that God saw in him and that was what God was searching for in a man who would lead Israel.
- 2 This is what God was telling Samuel...

### **1 Samuel 16:7 God sees not as man sees...**

- 1 We tend to give favoritism to those who are highly esteemed in the eyes of men, but "God is no respecter of persons."

**Illus – it's easy to become impressed with those who have a doctorate in theology, but this means nothing without a heart that's sold out to Jesus Christ.**

**2 Chronicles 16:9, The eyes of the Lord search to and fro throughout the whole earth in order to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward him.**

## **II. Everyone Faces Giants**

- 1 This is not just another amazing story, there is personal application for each one of us.
- 2 The giants we face could be a terrible medical condition, losing your job in the midst of very bad economy, alcohol or drugs taking hold of your life, or problems in your marriage that seem insurmountable.
- 3 Or they could be thoughts that keep running over and over in your mind that keep you in some kind of prison.
- 4 David's victory then becomes our victory when we understand the secret of his strength.

### A. Faith is the victory

- 1 The problem about giants is that they're very intimidating. For 40 days he is your life had been worn down by the taunts of this giant of a man.
- 2 When we say that they were worn down, that means that they were being reduced into something much less and much weaker than God wanted them to be.
- 3 David's strength of faith was seen in his response to Goliath, "I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have just taunted."
- 4 David had made it clear in verse 37 that it was the Lord who had delivered him from the lion and from the bear and it would be the Lord who would deliver him from the hand of the Philistine that day.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-4, For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.**

**Illus – When David slung that stone, I believe that it was being divinely directed by the Spirit of God. There was nowhere else in the world it was going to go but into Goliath’s forehead.**

5 This is what Paul meant when he said to the church in Galatia...

**Galatians 2:20, I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**

B. The battle is the Lord’s

6 That’s what David told Goliath. That’s what we need to understand for our own lives today.

7 The key is that David was willing to face Goliath with his faith. He would not be reduced by Goliath’s taunts because he had already been built up by the Spirit of God.

8 Many years later when Jehoshaphat, King of Judah faced his enemies, the Lord strengthened his faith when God spoke through a prophet...

**2 Chronicles 20:15, “The battle is not yours but God’s... station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.”**

9 Facing the giants in our lives means that we are willing to view your circumstances through the faith that he is growing in your heart.

**Luke 18:8, “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”**