

Faith is the Victory

1 Samuel 17 [How a Local Shepherd Boy Became a National Hero!]

David and Goliath is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible.

Heavyweight Fight – Major upset! There is something about cheering for the “underdog.” However, things are not always as they appear. Actually, *David IS the giant and Goliath is the midget* in this battle. Faith in God always gives a person the advantage over a non-believer.

➡ David (type of Christ)—Defeats Goliath—type Satan / antiChrist (17:4-7, 50).

Goliath- Type of Satan:

1. He is a Liar (v. 9 cf. v. 51; 19:8; 21:1). Satan makes promises but fails to deliver.
2. He roars (v. 8).
3. He struts and is proud (v. 42). Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall (Prov. 16:18). *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.* (1 Cor. 10:12)

Goliath- Type of Anti-Christ (Note connection to the number SIX)

1. Height- SIX cubits and a span (v. 4). This is about 10 feet tall. Would make Shaq look like a munchkin in the land of Oz.
2. ARMOR- SIX pieces
3. Spear's head - 600 shekels (about 17-18 lbs.)
4. Six fingers & Six toes (cf. 2 Sam. 21:19-22)

➡ This battle typifies Christ's victory ultimate over Satan/antichrist.

➡ The key to David's victory was **FAITH** (1 John 5:2). **David was a man of faith** therefore victorious (Heb. 11:32).

I. The **CAUSE** of faith (vs. 23-30).

- v. 29—“*Is there not a cause?*” Everyone should have a cause (Phil. 1:21). What is YOUR cause?
- God's call depends on two things: (1) The Word of God and (2) the opportunity at hand. Every Christian has only to recognize

the need, and realize it is in line with God's Word, then simply gird up his loins and go forth to meet that need.

- That there was a cause was reason enough for David to go out and meet Goliath. When the opportunity was afforded, David seized the opportunity head on.
- ➡ Verse 28: When a person set's out to do something for God he will face opposition—Sometimes from his own family.

A. Eliab DENOUNCED David (v. 28). Eliab falsely accuses David. Eliab is probably bitter over David being anointed instead of him!

➡ David's response to the criticism of Eliab.

1. He asked **two simple questions** and went on.
2. David's fight was not with Eliab, but Goliath! Don't waste time trying to convince critics. Let God deal with your critics and continue move on towards your task.

"IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?"

- Why do we leave the ease of our homes to come to church?
- Why do we give of our finances when we could use it for ourselves?
- Why do we spend whole nights in prayer or spend a day fasting?
- Why do we labor building buildings, preparing lessons, going on visitation?
- Why do people leave a well paying jobs and comforts of home to go to a foreign mission field?

The answer: *IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?*

➡ **The cause is to make God known** (v. 46). David's motive was God's honor and that God might be known. This should be the church's main objective (cf. Ps. 89:1; 105:1; Luke 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:17). Motto: *"KNOWING Him, and making Him KNOWN."*

B. Saul DISCOURAGED David (v. 33).

C. Goliath DISDAINED David (v. 42). Why did Goliath disdain David? Because David was a clean-cut young man. David's appearance

was not typical of the worldly, dead-beat crowd. The Bible talks about "despisers of those who are good."

➡ What matters is: "If God be for us, who can be against us."

II. The **CONFIDENCE of faith** (vs. 31-47).

- v. 37—David's statement indicates a victorious faith.

- A. Confidence of PAST SUCCESSES (v. 34). The "little" battles in life help prepare you for bigger battles later.
- B. Confidence of PROVEN STRATEGIES (vs. 39-40). "I cannot go with these; for I HAVE NOT PROVED THEM..." Anything unproven is an unwise choice in times of crisis (cf. 1 Thess. 5:21). David used what he had proven— Weapons he knew worked in the past.
 1. Saul's armor represents **man-made methods**— Depending on philosophy, psychology, and other humanistic reasonings to do the Lord's work.
 - ➡ David "PUT THEM OFF." He set aside man-made provisions.
 2. He took the means **provided of God** (v. 40). The brook and the stones were the handiwork of God, not man.

David picked up five stones out of the brook. Water is a type of the Word of God. God's Word is also associated with stones (Ex. 34:1; Dt. 27:8; 1 Pet. 2:8). We are to go to the river of God's Word to gather "stones" of divine truth to "sling" at the enemy.

Why five stones? Was it because David might miss with the first shot? No, David would not miss. Faith hits the target every time! 2 Samuel 21:22 says that Goliath had four sons. So David got enough stones to take out of Daddy and all his youngin's.

- C. Confidence to PROMPTLY STRIKE (v. 40b). David did not wait till the giant come up to him. He went on the offensive, taking the battle to the enemy.

➡ v. 45—David did not say, "I come to thee with a sling and a stone." No, he cried, "in the name of the Lord of Hosts." Faith honors God, taking no credit to itself; and God honors faith by giving the victory.

➡v. 47—“*The battle is the Lord's*” — It was not David's battle. It was not David's strength. It was not David's responsibility. The giant had defied the God of Israel. The battle now was the Lord's. David offered himself as an instrument in God's hands. The Lord was responsible to make use of David to win the battle.

III. **The CONQUEST of faith** (vs. 48-51).

- A. Faith does not wait for victory—it anticipates it!
- B. The bout doesn't last long. David wins by a knock-out in the first round.
- C. v. 51—Goliath is slain with his own weapon. Nothing honors God more than the turning of wicked men's forces against themselves. In the book of Esther, Haman was hung on the same gallows he prepared for Mordecai.

SUMMATION: Giant lessons to be learned:

1. Duties faithfully discharged lead to great opportunities. David was faithfully obeying his father. Little did he realize that in discharging that simple responsibility he would come back home a national hero. The one who is faithful in the small matters will be entrusted of God with greater things (Luke 16:10; 19:17 cf. Prov. 22:29).
2. The cause of the Lord is worth fighting for!
3. Expect “friendly fire” when you stand up for God. Opposition may come from your own ranks.
4. Sometimes battles must be fought ALONE (with God). No one can fight your battles for you. Your Goliath is your Goliath:
 - The “giant” of a failing marriage;
 - The “giant” of a wayward son/daughter;
 - The “giant” of a sinful bondage (smoking... swearing... anger... etc.)
 - The “giant” of a physical infirmity.
 - The “giant” of some monumental task (church building project, etc).
5. No matter how big a giant you face, God is bigger.