

ONLY A BOY NAMED DAVID**1 Samuel 17**

Intro: (Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11) This was ALWAYS one of my favorite Bible stories. I think it was special to a little boy because that little boy felt insignificant with little to offer. But here was someone, David, who counted even though he was doubted and scorned. You see it wasn't about a fearful king and his cowering army. Neither was it about a taunting and profane bully. In fact it wasn't even about a boy named David, it was about a great God who took what David had to offer and brought a great victory.

This so-called champion who went out from the camp of the Philistines was famously named Goliath. He was truly a giant at six cubits and a span. A cubit was the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger – so this huge man was somewhere around 8'5" to 9'2". (stand my extension up) Some even estimate he was more like 10 feet tall and his armor and weapons were also huge and probably weighed a couple hundred pounds.

He was a daunting adversary.

Goliath was scary and Saul and his army were scared – very scared. Goliath taunted them with a challenge for Israel to send out their best warrior to fight him. The logical choice for a match would have been King Saul himself because he stood head and shoulders above anyone else in Israel. But was Saul was too afraid. He was a shadow of his former self. One big reason for that was what we read in 1 Samuel 16:14 – the next verse after our text from last week, where we read, *Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.* 1 Samuel 16:14 (NIV). Saul was a wreck and all of the army and all of Israel was saturated by a culture of fear.

This was exactly Goliath's intention. He was an effective propagandist – he loved to strike fear. Goliath was Fox News, CNN and Twitter all wrapped into one huge package of fearmongering. He was the picture of a terrorist. And it was working very well. Goliath was defeating the Israelites with fear alone.

This is an effective tool of Satan – strike fear into the hearts of God's people and the battle is won.

Along comes David. Listen (Read 1 Samuel 17:12-18)

It was 15 or 20 miles from Bethlehem to the Valley of Elah and David is bringing food for his brothers. Jesse wanted to augment whatever food the army was providing his sons. (Tell about Mother sending hot dogs to New Mexico or cakes to Messiah) Its what loving parents do.

While there David hears Goliath's challenge. Listen (Read 1 Samuel 17:19-30)

David was insulted by the insults to his God.

Eliab, his big brother was insulted by his little brother. Actually though he was just jealous that his younger brother had all the backbone in the family.

And Goliath's taunts ring out across the valley again.

And King Saul and his army cringe in fear again

And the Philistine army laughs derisively at their cowering adversaries again.

And David says no more insults – something needs to be done and I will do it.

And the word gets back to King Saul. Listen (Read 1 Samuel 17:31-40)

Saul was more than happy have a champion – until he saw the champion – WHAT CAN YOU DO?! You're just a kid! King Saul didn't have the foresight of another Saul who had become Paul who said to another young man named Timothy *Let no one despise you for your youth,* 1 Timothy 4:12. Saul thought about human possibilities, David already had experienced divine reality as he protected his flocks from wild animal attack. King Saul was ruled by fear. The boy named David was consumed by faith.

Saul's fear required armor. But Saul's fear didn't fit David's faith. He gave it a try and in my mind's eye I see Ralphy Parker's little brother, Randy, when he's outfitted in his snowsuit and whining "I can't put my arms down!" It just didn't work.

David travelled light. He took a sling and five smooth stones – probably about the size of a man's fist and went out to meet the bully. Listen (Read 1 Samuel 17:41-44)

David = Small

Goliath = Huge

God = Great

Now it was Goliath's turn to be insulted. This is the best you can do?! A kid?! And then he hurled profane insults that impugned David's and Saul's and every Israelite soldier's masculinity and their sexuality and he turned the air blue with his evil speech.

But David replied with words of truth and faith – *“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.”* 1 Samuel 17:45-47.

And then the battle was joined. Listen, (Read 1 Samuel 17:48-50)

Goliath loomed large and David charged. He didn't feint or dodge or dance around with some song and dance about 'Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee'. No! David charged at the huge bully and his sling released and the stone found its mark on Goliath's forehead and the giant fell like a ton of bricks.

David didn't succumb to fear – he charged in faith.

David didn't hide in a tent or go back to Bethlehem with his tail between his legs – he did something. He relied upon his Lord who had not failed him before. He knew the battle belongs to the Lord.

Only a boy named David who believed the promises of God.

Conclusion: What are you worrying about these days?

What strikes fear into your soul?

What lies of Satan are you believing that makes you cower and think there's no hope?

What human propaganda are you believing that overshadows you and deflates your faith?

I'm asking this because the same God who protected David from lions and bears and helped him defeat them.

And the same living God David relied upon to defeat the evil Philistine champion that seemed so invincible – is the God who promises to never leave us or forsake us.

We don't need the world's armor. It doesn't work. We can't move our faith when we try it on.

We don't need the world's weapons – Satan long ago fashioned a work around our human armaments.

How about we try this instead: (Read Ephesians 6:10-18)

It was only a boy named David who defeated the Giant Goliath because he relied on his God to fight his battle and bring the victory. We can too. Amen.