

David's Incredible Faith

1 Sam 17:40-51

40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. 41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. 42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. 43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, 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. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." 48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. NKJV

This month we will be looking at the life of David.

David is one of the few very special people in the Bible. Like Abraham, who God made an irreversible covenant with so did God with David.

David's name is mentioned almost 1000 times (970) in the Bible.

David is responsible for writing a large portion of the book of Psalms.

But David does not start out important like some people do in the Bible.

David was the youngest of 8 sons. Forgotten at his own coronation as king.

Nor was David's life one of ease and leisure, but of struggle and trials far beyond what most of us will ever experience.

Because David is such a large character we cannot deal with his whole life but only small episodes of importance.

David has already been chosen as the king to follow Saul and Samuel has already anointed him as such.

David has already been known to Saul as the harpist that comes to calm Saul when ever a disturbing spirit from the Lord come upon him.

But today he is being sent by his father with some provisions for his three oldest brothers who are in Saul's army and engaged with the Philistines in battle.

But the battle has been going on so long that Jesse is worried about his sons and sends David, although he has four older brothers at home. But then God was working in all of this to accomplish His will.

It is believed by most that David is still a teenager, not over 19 years old yet. That is why in our story he is continually referred to as a youth, and not a man.

When David gets there his oldest brother reads him the riot act for being there at all. V- 28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

But Eliab does not know his brother at all. For David is simply a servant obeying his fathers will to come help his brethren. Just like Jesus.

David's defining characteristic is that he has a heart like God. Not that he is a soldier or a harpist. But he has a heart for God. And that and only that gets him involved in today's story.

I. The situation

A. The Philistine champion, Goliath.

1. He is almost 10 feet tall.
2. His coat of armor weighs between 125 and 150 lbs.
3. The spear head of his spear weighs 15 lbs.
4. He has been a warrior for all his life.

B. The challenge

1. Send one man to fight.
2. He will fight for the entire nation.
3. Winner takes all.
4. Morning and evening for 40 days he comes down to issue the challenge.

C. Israel's best.

1. Saul

2. Jonathan
 3. Abner
- D. But no one takes the challenge.
1. How humiliating.
 2. Because Saul and his army represent God in the battle.
 3. It seems that Goliath's god is greater than Israel's.

II. The challenge

A. David's attitude.

1. He cannot understand why someone has not put an end to this ungodly Philistine.
2. Not even the rewards offered by Saul had enticed people.
 - a. His daughter's hand in marriage.
 - b. Their household freed from taxes or other national obligations.
 - c. The problem is that it is hard to enjoy rewards when you are dead.
3. David, young 19 year old David takes the challenge.
 - a. 32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

B. David's detractors

1. Eliab
 - a. For even being there.
 - b. Thinks that he knows David's heart but he does not.
 - c. If you will do things for God, you will often have to overcome those close to you who Satan would use to discourage you.
 - d. Notice David's response.
 - e. 29 And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"
2. Saul
 - a. You can't do it, you're not able.
 - b. You're too young.
 - c. You're not experienced.

- d. He is too big for you and he has been a soldier all his life.
- e. You do not have armor and sword and spear.

3. Goliath

- a. He laughs at David.
- b. He scorns David.
- c. He threatens David.
- d. 43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"
- e. The only thing Goliath could see in David's hand was the shepherd's staff.

III. David's incredible faith.

A. David has such confidence.

- 1. Yah, I will just go out there and kill this Philistine.
- 2. "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."
- 3. It is like it will be a walk in the park to David.
- 4. Saul is thinking this kid is nuts.

B. But David has past experience.

- 1. He had killed a lion and a bear in protecting and saving his sheep.
- 2. In secret God had prepared David for what he would do in public.
- 3. In secret God had given him faith that would work even when he got out in the world.
- 4. It is easy to have faith at home if it is never tried.
- 5. So in David's mind this godless Philistine is no different than a beast.

C. David's faith.

- 1. "The reader is so familiar with the blessed sequel that little comment on it is required. Faith having brought God into the scene could announce the victory in advance (v.46). One stone in its hand was worth more than all the Philistine's armor on the giant of unbelief. And why? Because that stone, though flung by David's sling, was directed and made efficacious by the hand of God." A.W. Pink

2. In the place where David had learned to play the harp and write various psalms to the Lord, that is where he got the faith to face the giant.
 3. So many today want to slay the giants without spending time with the Lord.
 4. To many use this passage to teach that you can do it like David if you will just get out there.
 5. But the real picture here is that David is Jesus coming to save his people from the foe they could never hope to vanquish and we are the fearful helpless Israelites.
 6. Another picture is seen in the movie made from C.S. Lewis' book *Prince Caspian*, where toward the end of the movie as the enemy is retreating to regroup, little Lucy steps to the end of the bridge and pulls out her little 4 inch sword to stop the enemy.
 7. David's sling is like that 4 inch sword. Without God's intervention on David's part David would have been like all of the others that Goliath had ever encountered.
 8. David knew the battle was sure, not because of himself but because of Him in Whom David put his trust.
 9. Where is your trust today?
 - a. Is it in yourself?
 - b. Is it in your parents?
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“Obstacles. Whenever you step out by faith, other people will often put obstacles in your way. David’s brother ridiculed him (v. 28) and Saul bluntly told David, “You are not able!” (v. 33). Then Saul said, “If you must do it, do it my way,” and he encumbered David with his heavy armor. David had to ignore the obstacles and keep his faith in the Lord. He had to do God’s work in the way God wanted him to do it.

“David is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of David. He was born in Bethlehem and misunderstood by his family; he was an obedient son and a conquering hero. The name David means “beloved,” and Jesus is the Father’s “beloved Son” (Matt. 3:17). David was anointed king long before he took the throne and ruled, and our Lord is King of kings even though He is not yet reigning on this earth. Like David, our Lord has had to experience rejection and exile before reigning.” Wiersbe, W. W. (1991). *With the Word Bible Commentary* (1 Sa 17:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.