

“David Before Goliath”
1 Samuel 17:33-58
(Preached at Trinity, July 16, 2017)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Chapter 17** contains one of the best-known stories in the Bible. Who hasn't heard of David and Goliath.
 - A. Goliath was some 9 ½ feet tall. His armor weighed over 125 lbs. His spear was massive in length with a 15 lb. iron head.
 - B. We are also told of his relentless taunting of the forces of Israel. It went on every day for six weeks.
1 Samuel 17:16 NAU - "The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand."
2. David was but a lowly shepherd boy; the youngest of eight sons. But this day would change his life forever. His three older brothers had gone to fight the Philistines in Saul's army. Jesse, their father, was well past the age of military service. On this morning he had sent David to the front line to check on the wellbeing of his three sons.
3. As David made his way the twelve miles or so to the front line he never suspected how his day was about to unfold. He certainly didn't see himself as a hero. He couldn't have imagined going one on one with a seasoned Philistine warrior, not to mention one the likes of Goliath.
4. This is the nature of our days. You don't know what today may bring. What has God planned for you? Do you trust His sovereign purpose? Do you prepare yourself diligently each day seeking God's wisdom and strength to equip you for what you may face? William Blaikie has good insight on this point:
"True, indeed, the future is hid from us, and we do not usually experience the impulse to earnestness which it would impart. But is it not a good habit, as you kneel each morning, to think, 'For aught I know, this may be the most important day of my life. The opportunity may be given me of doing a great service in the cause of truth and righteousness; or the temptation may assail me to deny my Lord and ruin my soul. O God, be not far from me this day; prepare me for all that Thou preparest for me.'" ¹
5. David, the man after God's own heart, was prepared for such a day as this. Tonight, I want us to walk with David in this remarkable day of war with the Philistine giant.

¹ Blaikie, William Garden. (2005). *Expository Lectures on the Book of 1 Samuel*. Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, pages 257-258.

- I. First, we need to see his unorthodox approach
- A. Carnal men always rely on carnal methods
1. The Philistines put their confidence in the size of their warrior
1 Samuel 17:4 NAU - "Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span."
 It was the sight of Goliath that sent terror into the entire army of Israel
 2. For Saul, his confidence was not in David. He was but a youth. And Goliath had been a warrior his whole life. But perhaps Saul's armor might make a difference.
1 Samuel 17:33 NAU - "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth."
1 Samuel 17:38 NAU - "Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor."
- B. For David none of these things increased his confidence.
- 1 Samuel 17:39 NAU** - "David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested *them*." And David took them off."
1. Consider the many times that armies were defeated without the normal use of weapons. Jericho's walls crumbles before Israel's march and the blowing of horns and the shouts of the people. Gideon's force broke clay pots. God used hailstones, and crushing waters.
 2. This isn't to say that we are forbidden to use weapons. Our nation is wise to maintain a powerful military and it's not a bad idea for a family to have a weapon for personal defense.
 The point of this is we must not look upon weapons as our true source of confidence. God doesn't need our weapons.
Psalms 33:16-18 NAU - "The king is not saved by a mighty army; A warrior is not delivered by great strength. ¹⁷ A horse is a false hope for victory; Nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength. ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness,"
 3. David's weapons were most unconventional. He carried his shepherd's staff, a sling, and five stones he collected from the brook. A sling could be a serious weapon in the hands of a skilled warrior. It could hurl a 3 inch stone at 100 to 150 mph. No baseball pitcher can match this.
 But neither David's sling nor his expertise was the source of his confidence.
 4. David's confidence transcended the weapons of man.
1 Samuel 17:47 NAU - "that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands."

- C. We trust in the unseen protection of God
1. The grand work of the Kingdom of God is not dependent upon earthly might.
2 Corinthians 10:4 NAU - "for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,"
 2. As we are assailed by unimaginable vicious foes we use an almighty weapon.
Ephesians 6:17 NAS - "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
 Martin Luther:

“For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.”

- II. After seeing his unorthodox approach, let us gaze upon his unshakable assurance
- A. It is amazing to listen to David’s words to Goliath
1 Samuel 17:45-47 NAU - "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and 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 taunted. ⁴⁶ "This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands."
 1. Goliath must have muttered to himself, “Who in the world is this?”
 2. David’s words seem almost prophetic: “This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you.”
 3. Was David remembering the times that God delivered the bears and lions into his hand.
1 Samuel 17:37 NAU - "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."
 4. Did David have knowledge of the last time the Philistines dared to defy the living God—when Dagon was found on his face and the people were smitten with a plague?
 5. Notice, David shows no hesitation

V 48 - "David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine."

6. From the moment David heard the insolent words of Goliath blaspheming God and His people he knew what he had to do.

1 Samuel 17:32 NAU - "David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

B. This is the nature of faith

1. By faith we are not turned away. We don't give up. We don't flee in fear. Don't forget David had zero encouragement from men:

His elder brother rebuked him:

1 Samuel 17:28 NAU - "Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart;"

King Saul looked upon him as a silly boy:

1 Samuel 17:33 NAU - "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth."

And of course, Goliath mocked him:

1 Samuel 17:43 NAU - "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods."

1 Samuel 17:44 NAU - "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."

2. Although we face discouragements from every side we trust in the unseen protection of God

2 Corinthians 5:7 NAU - "for we walk by faith, not by sight"

Hebrews 11:1 NAU - "Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

3. Like David, we have the experience of faith. We've heard the stories of God's mighty deliverance and we have experienced it in our own life. The grace of remembrance is a wonderful source of confidence in future conflicts.

4. Although we will often find places of discouragement our hearts are lifted up as we consider the greatness of our God.

Psalms 42:11-43:1 KJV - "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God. "

5. We understand that with God's power we are unstoppable

Hebrews 11:32-34 NAU - "And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of* righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight."

Romans 8:31 KJV - "What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?"

- III. Finally, after seeing David's unconventional approach and his unshakable assurance, I want us to see his undeniable accomplishment
- A. David indeed conquered this invincible warrior
1. He loaded a single stone in his sling and sent it flying. By faith he stood unshaking. A man of less faith may have trembled which would have affected his aim. But not David. His aim was sure. In Hollywood style, you can imagine Goliath teetering for a moment and then with a loud clanging of his armor he crashed to the ground.
 2. Then after Goliath fell on his face, and with David standing over him without a weapon, he picked up Goliath's mammoth sword and removed his head.
 3. You can imagine David holding high Goliath's giant head so that the Philistines could see their champion. They immediately took flight.
 4. Israel immediately began pursuing after the Philistines
 5. One has to imagine what David's older brothers thought of their kid brother.
- B. David's motive in going to battle against Goliath was the glory of God
1. David was concerned about the reputation of God
1 Samuel 17:46 NAU - "This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,"
 2. It is good to live a meek and quiet life. But sometimes the glory of God demands we get involved.
 David accomplished his mission. Goliath cursed David in the name of his gods, and once again Dagon fell on his face before God.
- C. This day forever changed David's life
1. God used it to prepare the way for David to take the throne
 2. Saul was amazed at this teenage boy. He spoke to his general, "Who in the world is this young man?" "Whose son is this young man?"
 3. This had a profound effect upon Jonathan. He and David shared a kindred spirit of courage and of love and faith in God. This forged a lasting friendship.
1 Samuel 18:1 NAU - "Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself."
 4. David was taken into Saul's service from this day on.
 5. Most important, David stands as a foreshadow of our Lord, the King of kings who crushes His enemies.

Conclusion:

1. This chapter is not primarily about David's courage or David's faith but about God's glory. Those who care about God's glory will risk all to display it upon the earth.

2. As I said at the beginning, you do not know what a day will bring forth but are you prepared to trust God in it? And when God's honor is at stake are you prepared to stand for Him no matter what the personal cost.
For those who trust Him they will find Him most glorious and most able to deliver.