

David: A Man After God's Own Heart

Be bold, Be Strong

Text: 1 Samuel 17

1. Setting

1 Samuel 13.5 - Philistines came to fight with Israel with 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen and completely outnumbered them and outclassed them in terms of weaponry.

Philistines - "flatlanders" - lived on the coastal plains

"Now the advisers of the king of Syria said to him: "Their God is a god of the mountains. That's why they overpowered us. But if we fight them in the plains, we will certainly overpower them". 1 Kings 20:23

2. Observations

i. Facing giants

- o "giants" in Canaan (Numbers 13:26-33).
- o God told Israel they were not to be afraid of any giants. (Dt 7:17-24; 9:1-3).
- o "giant-sized" nations like Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon.

ii. It's your perspective that matters

Israelites entrusted themselves to a man (Saul), rather than to God.

David asked the men who were standing near him, "What will be done for the man who strikes down this Philistine and frees Israel from this humiliation? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he defies the armies of the living God?" (1 Samuel 17:26)

This wasn't about Goliath; it wasn't about his size or his skill as a warrior. This was about God, about His name, His glory, His honour, His power.

"Your servant has been a shepherd for his father's flock. Whenever a lion or bear would come and carry off a sheep from the flock, I would go out after it, strike it down, and rescue the sheep from its mouth. If it rose up against me, I would grab it by its jaw, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has struck down both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them. For he has defied the armies of the

living God! The Lord who delivered me from [the paw of] the lion and [the paw of] the bear will also deliver me from the hand of this Philistine!"

If God had proven Himself faithful when David fought the lion and bear, David knew He would most certainly give him the victory over a Goliath.

Read Psalm 18:23-42.

Key Verse:

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." (Vs. 32)

"Let no one lose heart". What does it mean to lose heart?

1967 – Martin Seligman – "learned helplessness"

For Israel it was the false belief that there was nothing they could do, they were powerless

"the moment we permit evil to control our imaginations, dictate the way we think and shape our responses, we at the same time become incapable of seeing the good and the true and the beautiful". Eugene Peterson

- Israelites had a Goliath-dominated imagination
- David had a God-dominated imagination

3 stages to develop a bold heart:

1. **Conquer your everyday challenges.** (Vs. 34)
2. **Learn to face criticism and opposition.** (Vs 25-26;28)
3. **Resist the pressure to conform** (Vs 31-33; 38-45)

Whoever you are and whatever you face, what God did for David, God can do for you!

What is the Goliath in your life right now?