

David and Goliath

17 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. ²

And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. ³ And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶ And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹

When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

1 Samuel 17:1-11

²¹ And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. ²² And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. ²³ As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. ²⁴ All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.

1 Samuel 17:21-24

Pray

I want to begin my sermon by saying that you are not David, I am not David

What happens when we read scripture sometimes is that we read ourselves into the text and more often than not we read ourselves as the hero of the story. I hope my sermon points to the fact that God is the hero, and we play a part in His story

Context to the Story

Saul is Israel's first King

Israel and the Philistines are at war due to territorial disputes, differences in worship, and historical tension that goes back before David and Goliath were around

The text tells us that the Philistines assembled their armies and in response King Saul assembled his army and prepared to defend his territory

(Show Photo)

David, who in chapter 16 is anointed and chosen to be Israel's next king, is sent by his father to deliver food and supplies to his older brothers who were fighting in the army

And this whole story is built around the dramatic scene of a giant named Goliath and a young future king fighting one on one in the valley between each army

I recognize that the story of David and Goliath seems far removed from our modern culture and even in the modern way war between two countries is carried out

However, I think this story has some important application for us

Each Christian has received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, similar to David

Each Christian has been called and empowered by God to help lead his people into a better relationship with Him, similar to the role of the king and priest in the Old Testament

Each of us has the responsibility to face giants, both personally and corporately

Part of living as a Christian with bold faith means we have to face some giants head on

What we see in 1 Samuel 17 is that David shows us the only way to kill a giant is to face it head on

Because, if you don't face it head on, then you leave room for that thing (giant) to keep rearing its head

Giants don't go away because you ignore them or because you don't fight

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

1 Samuel 17:16

The rest of the Israelites army had refused to fight Goliath based on fear and what we see is that Goliath for forty days would come stand and prepare to fight even though the Israelites showed no sign of engaging with him, Goliath still kept coming back day after day

Giants (Sin, bad habits, uncomfortable situations, bad relationships. Perhaps it could be a situation that you didn't cause but one that you must deal with) don't just disappear because we ignore them

Out of sight, out of mind

Rather, I would argue that the longer we ignore them, the more difficult they are to deal with in the end

I'm trying to draw a parallel from David and Goliath to our modern situation

A (Giant) is a reference to that thing(s) that are standing in your way from fully obeying God

It is the thing that is keeping you from experiencing the fullness who God is

It is that thing that is causing you fear, causing you to give up, causing you to question God's activity in your life

All of the emotion you feel, the Israelites felt as they look at Goliath

So, the question is, how do I defeat the giant in front of me?

1. Small Victories

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

1 Samuel 17:34-36

In order for David to win the war against Goliath, he first needed to win against the lion and the bear

What David shows is that his smaller private victories prepared him for the larger public victory

The reason why some of you can't overcome this (Giant) in your life is because you have developed no habit or discipline of dealing with much small things

As the old phrase goes, you can't eat an elephant in one bite

For example, some of you a small victory is deleting social media, so you not tempted by what you see

Others, you need to stop buying coffee or a drink every day because your building unsustainable money habits

Still others, you need to stop holding hands or hanging out one on one with a person you know is wrong because your allowing small compromises that are leading you down the wrong path

If you desire the kill the giant, you must begin small

Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes
that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.”

Song of Solomon 2:15

It is the small and seemingly insignificant things that will eventually ruin a whole vineyard.
Don't allow your life to become a vineyard ruined by small compromises that lead to an unbeatable giant

Small victories are not the only way of killing your giants, but I believe it is the most overlooked looked way.

We often want the large victory, the testimony that God completely took this desire away or that person away

But if God does that and you have no discipline, you'll be right back to square one

Furthermore, one of the best places to see God at work in your life and watch him transform and sanctify you is the small victories

2. Cut the Head Off

⁵¹ Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

1 Samuel 17:51

Cutting the head off ensures that there is no chance of the giant coming back

This step requires you to ask the question, how serious am I about following Jesus wholeheartedly?

If there is a giant in your way and you are sold out for Christ, what are you willing to do to obey the Lord?

Some of you, need to end a relationship or situationship tonight

Others, you need to sell your phone and buy a phone with no internet access

Others, you need to give someone access to your money because you have no discipline when it comes to money

I am speaking in fairly extreme language because I want you to understand that obedience to Jesus must cost us something

David showed that if we are to defeat the giant must develop small private victories, and we must cut the head off the giant

Cutting the head off a giant attacks the thing or event, small victories ensure you don't end up in that situation again

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

The victory is already won, and you have been delivered from the domain of darkens. It's time to start living in that reality

I want to challenge you to deal with whatever giant is standing in your way, keeping you from full obedience to Christ

Confession with a trusted person and ask them to help you and keep you accountable