

# 1 SAMUEL

## David & Goliath – Pt. 2

1 Samuel 17:25-40

### Icebreaker

Do you have an optimistic, pessimistic, or a realistic view of life? Why? Can you be spiritual healthy and be a pessimist?

### Context

Two weeks ago, we saw the battle lines drawn up between the Philistines and the Israelites. We were introduced to the Philistine champion Goliath and his description is seen in comparison to the humble actions of the shepherd David. While Goliath spews forth contempt against God and his people, David is being faithful to his father and to his responsibilities.

In this week's passage, we see the various responses to Goliath's words by the Israelites, Eliab, Saul, and David. Each of their responses reveals the condition of their hearts and how they view the world. David alone is more concerned about God's holiness and name than his own safety.

### Discuss

1. Read verse 25. From the perspective of the Israelites, what is the problem with Goliath's words and actions? What information in the passage tells us whether they are more focused on spiritual matters or surface matters?
2. Read verse 26-27. From the perspective of David, what is the problem with Goliath's words and actions? Do you think David is more motivated by the possible reward or the spiritual issues on display?

What is the difference between saying "the army of Israel" and "the armies of the living God"?

3. Read verse 28. What are the three responses of Eliab towards David? Do you think this is the first time Eliab has spoken to/about David in this way?  
Application: Do you like being around people with an attitude like Eliab's? Why or why not?



4. What do you notice about David's response to Eliab? Why didn't he defend himself against Eliab's accusation? [Proverbs 12:16 & Proverbs 26:4] Application: Why is it hard to not react to criticism/personal attacks?
5. What is it in David's response in verse 32 that indicates David is selfless and thinking of others before himself?
6. From a practical perspective, is Saul wrong in verse 33? Read 1 Corinthians 1:25-29. From a spiritual perspective, why is Saul wrong in his assessment of David?
7. Read verses 34-37. Who is the "hero" of these stories? Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. In what ways does David embody the words of Jeremiah?
8. Why are the phrases "this uncircumcised Philistine" and "defied the armies of the living God" stated for the second time in this passage? Are we as passionate today as David was when it concerns the holiness of God?
9. Why does Saul try to give David armor before going into battle? Do you think Saul really believes David can win the fight against Goliath? Why or why not?
10. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Did David go into battle without armor?
11. What kind of weapons does David choose to use? Read John 10:11-18. What is the significance of David being portrayed as a shepherd?

