

*fear*less*

6. GIANT OPPORTUNITIES

HVC, May 31, 2020

1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

1 Samuel 17:4-7, 10

A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him...Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."

Who is the greatest opponent you have ever faced?

Which one frightens you the most? Why?

Who are the giants you see challenging God in our day?

1 Samuel 17:8,11

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me"...On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

How do you react when someone "defies God"?

Who does Goliath see Israel to be? Whose servants does he believe the Israelites are?

In what ways do you think Christians are misperceived by others?

1 Samuel 17:16

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

Who did the Israelites regard *Goliath/the Philistines* to be?

In what ways do you think Christians today misperceive the giants around them?

1 Samuel 17:25

Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."

Where is King Saul in all of this? Do you think he should have been fighting Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:26

David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from

Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

What does David's question tell you about how *he* perceived the giant? Why do you think that was?

Considering the king's reward, what do you think was David's motivation for volunteering to take on Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:28-29

When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

"Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"

How did Eliab regard his younger brother? Why?

How might Eliab's questions have derailed David's courage?

What sort of things rob *you* of confidence?

1 Samuel 17:32-33

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

How often is the enthusiasm of youth ill-advised? When have you underestimated someone who has surpassed your expectations?

1 Samuel 17:34-37

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because 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 deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

Where did David's courage come from?

What (else) does this story tell you about David?

When, in your experience, has God delivered *you* from a lion or a bear?

1 Samuel 17:38-39

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

What was Saul's motivation for wanting to give armor to David?

What was David's reason for declining the offer?

Would your attitude in all of this been more like Saul's or David's?

What are some ways Christians are tempted to rely on "worldly" strategies and tools?

What are some non-faith ways that you tend to fight your Goliaths?

1 Samuel 17:43-44

He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

Honestly, how would you have responded to Goliath at this point? If you were a betting person, what odds would you have given David?

1 Samuel 17:45-47

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not

by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

What do you think Goliath thought when he heard this?

How about the Israelites who were watching? Saul?

1 Samuel 17:48

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

Why did David *run* toward Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:51-52

David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

Why/how did the Israelites find their courage?

David took smooth stones with him into battle. What resources do *we* have?

Who in your Core Group would you volunteer to take on Goliath?!

How might *your* courage or fear affect the others around you?

How “big” do you have to be to take on Goliaths in our society?

Now consider how this event tells the story of Christ? What parallels can you see?

How are we like the Israelites watching our “champion” take on our most dreaded enemy?

What giant are you avoiding in your own life?

What would help you turn and face that giant?