

David & Goliath, Part 2 10-24-21 Courageous Faith

So – what do Paul Bunyan, Jack and the Beanstalk and I Samuel have in common? They are all stories that involve a giant. But only one of them really happened. We are in the story of David and Goliath part two, the dramatic conclusion. I just know you have been waiting with bated breath to learn the outcome of this dramatic encounter. Last week, we left our young hero in the presence of King Saul near the front lines where Goliath was taunting the armies of Israel to send forth a man to do battle with him. No one had the courage to face the 9-foot spear-wielding monster until the shepherd from Bethlehem steps forward. In verse 32 we pick up our reading. 32-44

David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³Then Saul said to David, "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." ³⁴But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." ³⁷And David said, "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." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you." ³⁸Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. ³⁹David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." And David took them off. ⁴⁰He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine. ⁴¹Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him ⁴²When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. ⁴³The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."

This is known in athletic competition as “trash-talking” and it is designed to intimidate. It is also much more effective when you are 9 feet tall. 45-51

Then David said to the Philistine, "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. ⁴⁶This 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, ⁴⁷and 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."

⁴⁸Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground. ⁵⁰Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. ⁵¹Then 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.

Now, if this was a movie like Spiderman or Rocky or something, you'd all be clapping by now. I mean, this is a big moment. Let's hear it for our hero. This got even those cowardly Israelites excited. 52-54 *The men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the slain Philistines lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron. ⁵³The sons of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines and plundered their camps. ⁵⁴Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent.* David added Goliath's head to the trophies he had won as a shepherd.

What a great story! David serves as a wonderful example here. I want us today to consider three things about this giant-killer of a man. The first is his faith. We started to look at this last time. We saw that his faith was born in secret and nurtured in solitude. It was exercised in lonely conflict, especially in his role as a shepherd defending his sheep. It stood the tests of daily life, and it survived criticism from his brother Eliab and negativity from Saul his king. David had a tough faith and since I have one more observation about his faith, I make it point #1 for today. David's faith in God. What about it? Well, I want you to notice that his faith in God withstood the reasonings of the flesh. We already talked of how Saul had tried to discourage him. 33 *Then Saul said to David, "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."* The king encourages him to quit and perhaps David's flesh was saying hearty "amens" to Saul's words. But David had faith in God. In whom? In God, not David. When someone tells the Christian that he is unable to deal with a situation, he hasn't told him anything new. You say, "Dan Hendley, you aren't able to pastor a church, you are but a youth." What do I say to that? I say, "fella, you are about 30 years too late with that line." But then I agree. "You are absolutely right. I can't do it. But I'm not doing this on my own, and by my own strength. By God's might and God's Spirit, I can do this." And what I can do may be limited by God's **will** but it's not limited by my power. 37 *And David said, "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." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you."

David could look at his own arms and then at Goliath's and go, "oh, no." He could look at his legs and look at Goliath's and say, "Oh, no." He could look at his weapons and then look at Goliath's and say, "Give me a break." And I'm sure David noticed these things. He was no fool. But what he was was a man of spiritual vision, a man of faith. He saw all the facts the other soldiers saw, but he saw more. He saw something extra. What was that? He saw the living God, the Warrior God, ready to fight for him, in him and through him. He said in verse 47 "the battle is the Lord's." David had faith in God. One of my favorite stories is in II Kings 6, a story about Elisha, the Lord's prophet, who was hated by the Syrians for giving away their battle plans to the armies of Israel and so the Syrians tracked him down and were ready to kill him. II Kings 6:15-16 *Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"*

¹⁶*So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."* Can't you imagine this valet to the prophet counting the teams. "5,000 or so Syrians against 1, 2. But Elisha said *those who are with us are more than those who are with them.* Right! 17-18 ¹⁷*Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.* ¹⁸*When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.* Elisha saw the reality of God's support and God's power. He saw that one man with God is a majority. He wasn't about to think an army could whip God. David had this same vision of faith. And so must we. God says you are indwelt by the greatest power of the universe. That you can do all things through Him who strengthens you. Elisha prayed, "Lord, open his eyes." We sing a song like that, "Open the eyes of our heart Lord." It is taken from Paul's prayer in Ephesians chapter one. But whereas the song has us asking God for grace to see Him, the apostle's prayer is asking God to let us grasp the magnitude of His power which is working on our behalf. Ephesians 1:18-19 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,* ¹⁹*and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.* Paul is concerned that you see the same thing that Elisha's servant got to see – just how great is the power of God working on our behalf.

Now back to the front lines and verse 43-44 *The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.* ⁴⁴*The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."* How do you think young David could withstand Goliath's intimidation, on top of Saul's discouragement and Eliab's criticism? David listened to the propaganda of the world, saw it for what it was and called it a lie. He knew Goliath was spiritually blind. He knew Goliath could only see in him a weak vessel, and that the poor giant had no idea he was about to fight with the Creator of all things. David listened to the propaganda of the world and he called it a lie. 45 *Then David said to the Philistine, "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."* Goliath had no respect for that name – only for swords and spears. But what do you want Christian? The power of sword and spear or God's power and a little sling? Quit thinking like some uncircumcised Philistine, seeing only the externals and start thinking like a child of God. God is real. Trust in Him. Act in His power. Imitate David and have faith in God to take down the giants in your life.

Now, I said I had three points today. #2 is David's understanding of how God works. David said, "The battle is the Lord's." He believed this but that belief did not produce laziness in his life. He didn't say, "God will take care of this, why should I bother." No, his confidence that God would work pushed him out to the battle. He understood that God normally does His work through His people. Goliath died by the dual work of David and God. Please don't ever think, "It's God who makes me a better man or woman, so I don't have to work at it. Just rest and trust" No. Don't ever think that "God will save the elect, so I don't need to witness or pray." Trust in God does not negate human effort and human effort does not negate trust in God. Oh, there is once or twice in the Old Testament when God tells his people to stand back and watch him work. But those are the exception. Normally he is telling them to run into the fight and watch him work. David said, 32b *Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.* And again, in 34b-35 *Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock,* ³⁵*I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him.* Who killed those beasts? David. Who will kill Goliath? David-yes, but listen. 37 *David said, "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."* And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you. David says, "I killed

them. God delivered me.” There is human action and divine action. In God’s word the car of truth runs on two rails. A great many people want to pull up one of those rails. They won’t accept them both. They say it is either God’s work or man’s work. It can’t be both. But the word says it is both and although this may be a puzzle on paper, in practice, it makes perfect sense. Philippians 2:12-13 *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.* Paul says you have responsibility to work out – not physically but spiritually. You do some work, but he quickly adds that you do your work through and by and in the provision of God who is doing his work in you. As in David’s great deed, the practical action of the believer, throwing his whole might into his master’s service perfectly well agrees with his falling back upon the working of God and knowing that it is God who works all things for him. It is clear, David slew lion, bear and Philistine. Equally clear is that God delivered David from lion, bear and Philistine.

Now, David, just because he trusted in God, did not approach Goliath in a haphazard way, did he? We read of the decision concerning the armor. Would David try to use the grand armor of the king, with which he did not feel comfortable, with which he had never practiced? Or would he use the simpler tools with which he was familiar? David made a judgment to go with the familiar. Had David tried to use Saul’s armor would we ever have heard of him? I don’t know. But I know this. Faith in God did not mean that good strategy was irrelevant. David carefully picked five smooth stones. Why five? Why not just one? Lack of faith? No! Wise preparation. Keeping a spare tire in your car does not indicate a lack of faith. God commends thoughtful preparation for future needs. David was getting ready to fight and he thought a nine-foot tall giant might take more than a stone or two. Just so, I believe when I preach, I ought to prepare my sermons as if their success depended fully on me; but when I am thoroughly finished preparing I am to trust in God as if I had done nothing at all. William of Orange, the godly man who led the Dutch in their fight for freedom in the in the 16th century, was famous for saying, *“Trust God and keep your gunpowder dry.”* Not either/or, but both/and. Charles Spurgeon said this, *Work for God with all your might, as if you did it all; but then always remember that it is God who is at work in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. How is it that the Philistine will be killed? “By God” says one. True, but not without David. “By David” says another. Yes, but not without God. Put the Lord on the march with David and you put the Philistines into untimely graves.* I hope you are ready to put the enemies of truth into an untimely grave. How will

you do it? By the hand of God or by your own efforts? Dear friend it is both. The apostle Paul in I Corinthians chapter three writes of how he and the other leaders of the early church planted and watered in the field of the Lord, but God gave the increase. He said in I Corinthians 3:9a *For we are God's fellow-workers. We work and God works through us and for us and in us.* I trust you see my point. Many stumble by misunderstanding how God works with men to bring about His purposes. Point #2 - David had an understanding of how God works. You can too.

Point #3 for today is that this David, who had faith in God's power and understanding of God's work also had zeal for God's glory I believe here we touch on the ultimate concern of David's heart in the whole affair. He was not out to win glory for self. He was not out to obtain riches. David came to the battle, heard the scornful taunts of Goliath and felt compelled to fight for the honor of God. David is indignant that Goliath should be allowed to blaspheme God without reproof. I love how he says this 26cd *who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?* He's thinking, "he can't get away with this." 36 *Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.* David is not impressed by the ungodly. He knows anybody that wicked is headed for destruction. His ears cannot bear the words of Goliath. Why? He had a zeal for God's glory. *Zealous* means *jealous*. He was jealous to see God honored and his heart was stirred by the taunts of the giant. What is it that stirs you? Huh? What really gets your adrenaline pumping? Most of us sadly, get upset by personal insults and offenses. I have enjoyed reading some stories of life in rural Georgia written by Ferrol Sams. He tells of when he was a young, small boy and he and a friend had planted a watermelon patch. Oh, they had worked like crazy to make it good. And when the melons were ripe they decided to sleep out by the patch to keep anyone from stealing the melons. They carried guns to shoot or scare any potential thieves away. And sure enough some young guys came along, trampling on their fine patch and about to take a melon and the young Ferrol got so angry he didn't shoot off a warning shot. He fired the gun right at those boys and shot them. Fortunately, he was using a pellet gun. But man, oh man, did the injustice of that moment ever stir him up. Everybody gets stirred up like that from time to time. But men and women of God get stirred up by very different things. David says in Psalm 69:9a *Zeal for thy house has consumed me.* This is that word quoted about Christ when he cleansed the temple. 9 *Zeal for thy house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach Thee have fallen on me.* You see what he says? *reproaches of those who reproach Thee have fallen on me.* "Oh God, when you are

reproached, I feel it as my own.” Is that true of you? Are you grieved when you hear men berate your Savior? Are you grieved when you see Christ disgraced by those who wear his name? David says 9a *Zeal for thy house has consumed me.* That’s why he must rid Israel of this uncircumcised Philistine. In Psalm 139, David says 19 *O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.* David, how uncharitable of you! Why does he say this? 20 *For they speak against You wickedly, and Your enemies take Your name in vain.* David meekly bore accusations against himself, but he could not stand accusations against his God. 21-22 *Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? ²²I hate them with the utmost hatred; they have become my enemies.* Why? Because they had badmouthed David? They had cut him off for a parking spot? They had messed up his meal order? No, because they had spoken ill of his God. Zeal for the glory of God. May we be gripped by the same.

Again, in our text you see this 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.* He says, “you are gonna die Goliath, you and your buddies and your dead bodies will testify to **the reality of the God you scorn.** Two years ago I preached from the book of Isaiah – themes from that prophetic book and one of themes was this one. God’s concern for his own glory in the earth, the purpose of God that the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, that the name of the Lord would be famous. When David came to Goliath, how did he come? In verse 45c *I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts.* The name above every name. David said in Psalm 124:8 *Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.* David came to Goliath with faith in God, by the power of God, in the name of God, for the glory of God. David was a man who had faith in God’s power, a man who had understanding of God’s worth, and a man who had zeal for God’s glory. Faith, understanding and zeal. Those three spell FUZ. We need these. We need to be fuzzy Christians full of faith, and understanding and zeal. You want those Brother? Sister? Boy, I sure do. I want to see scoffers subdued by the armies of God. I want to see the church which men mock being the respected, feared power God called her to be. How beautifully the doxology of Paul fits in here. Ephesians 3:20a *Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think.* That’s faith in God’s power. 20b *According to the power that works within us.*

That's understanding of God's work. 21 *To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever.* That's zeal for God's glory. Let's pray together that it may be so in us.