

Some Bible stories are great and impactful not matter how well you know them or how many times you tell them. Near the top of that list for me is the day that David defeated Goliath. I'm sure it is familiar to you, but let's take a minute and read some of it to remind you of a few details.

I Samuel 17:3-4,9-10 – The Philistines and their massive warrior stood against God's people.

17:11 – The people and their king, Saul, was “dismayed and greatly afraid.”

17:26 – David, a young shepherd boy, shows up and makes a powerful faith statement!

17:32 – Then, he volunteers to fight on behalf of all Israel!

17:33 – Saul has not courage in himself and seeks to dishearten and deter David.

17:37 – But David draws on the previous power of God and speaks out in great faith!

17:40 – Without the slightest appearance of a warrior, not armor or sword, he goes out.

17:41-44 – The adversary was vile and mean and pompous. He thought he could not lose.

17:45-47 – Fearlessly, David lauds the name of God and God's ability to deliver the people!

17:48-49 – “Then it happened...” with a single sling shot the giant was killed.

17:50-51 – David prevailed. Not Saul. Not Israel. David by his faith in God!

17:52 – This changed everything. The soldiers with renewed courage ran off the enemy.

As we preachers like to say: “that'll preach right there.” And it has been preached, many times. Have you ever heard a sermon about David and Goliath? Me too. And they usually get preached something like this. **Firstly, you need a good title: CONQUERING THE GIANT.**

Secondly, you need to take that story and put it into four somewhat memorable points, reflecting the incredibly faith of David:

- 1) David was not deterred by fear in Others**
- 2) David had faith rooted in the Power of God**
- 3) David was not deterred by threats of the Enemy**
- 4) David acting with courage by Trust in the Lord**

Then comes the application portion of the lesson. This is where I tell you that God's people, that you, need to be like David! This is where we note that the title is not about David and Goliath: Conquering the Giant ... is actually about You conquering the Devil! Be like David!

Perhaps for each of these we come turn the attention to us with a Powerful N.T. Passage:

Romans 8:37 – We overwhelming Conquer the enemy as Christians!

- 1) You mustn't let other people's fear affect you**
- 2) You have to stay fueled by God's Power**
- 3) You cannot listen to the Enemies Lies**
- 4) You will be victorious if you Trust God**

Listen, nothing wrong with that sermon in terms of GOALS and who we WANT TO BE.

BUT... I'm wondering if we have missed the point of that ORIGINAL STORY.

If I know one thing above all else this morning, it is this: **I AM NO DAVID.**

I have a strong suspicion that few, if any, in the room today would have played that role.

Let's go back and look at this story again and see if we could've ever been like David:

1 – You show up to battle, a shepherd, and you've seen the power of God in your life before, so when you see a terrified army of brothers and a frightened king, and a formidable army across the other hill and a 9 ½ foot giant before them, proclaim aloud: “No one defies the Living God!” (Anyone?)

2 – Your brother tells you to leave, the king assures you there is nothing that can be done, but you speak the name of the Lord and then proclaim that you will fight that enemy on behalf of the people. (Who would have been willing to do that?)

3. You can't fit in the armor, you can't well wield the sword, so with no soldier's protection, and a sling with five stones, you walk out before your people and up to a giant and say: God sent me here and you are going to die. (Which of us could do that?)

4. The giant insults and belittled you and stands before you fully convinced he will win. You realize this is the last second you've got to turn and run. But you don't. Instead you hurt a stone at a giant, knowing if it doesn't navigate his guard and strike him down, you will be dead in moments. (Me? No).

Let's get real. Where are you and I as this story is unfolding? We are soldiers. We are scared and frightened. We had no way out and no way forward, and were awaiting our deaths. We needed someone to come and fight for us. That's me – a paralyzed fighter praying for a deliverer.

No, the story of David and Goliath is not about my victory over the adversary.

It is about CHRIST'S victory over SATAN and the deliverance that brought for Frightened Soldiers like us.

(If about us, it is like something amazing to something menial, but if messianic, David is shadow, Christ substance)

1) Jesus was not deterred by the cowardice and sinfulness of the World

a. They were supposed to be the fighters, but were losing the battle.

2) Jesus lived with absolute conviction in the Power of God to Deliver Sinners.

a. Jesus knew what God could do. He knew why He was sent. To win.

3) Jesus never gave in to any of the temptations or tactics of the Devil.

a. Nothing the devil could say would keep Him from His victory.

4) Jesus proclaimed victory over sin and even death by the Will of the Father.

a. Though He looked nothing like a warrior, He was our ONLY WARRIOR!

This story should absolute fill us up with GRATITUDE and LOVE for Jesus Christ! Our King.

You might wonder then, are we in the story at all? Is there anything about us and our journey to be seen in the day that David conquered Goliath? YES. I read it early on. Let's head back: **I Sam. 17:52!**

Something changed, didn't it? They were no longer afraid. They stepped out. They stepped forward. They believed. They chased away the enemy. Why? Because of the courage they found behind David.

Folks, we too should find that courage behind Jesus Christ. He defeated the enemy you could not – Satan with his Sin in one hand and Death in the other. He slew him. Jesus won. Now, we can come out of our hiding places. We can see the devil's work today as entirely weak and beatable by Christ's power.

By the way, that was the actual point of the Romans 8 passage from a bit ago:

Romans 8:37 – We do conquer. Victory is ours. The enemy cannot resist us – THROUGH HIM!

Romans 8:38-39 – His love. His leadership. His majesty. Nothing can defeat us because nothing can defeat Him! Do you believe that?

Okay, we can make the same application points we started with:

1) You mustn't let other people's fear affect you

2) You have to stay fueled by God's Power

3) You cannot listen to the Enemies Lies

4) You will be victorious if you Trust God

Romans 6:5-7 – Freed from sin through baptism ... because we unite ourselves with HIM

Romans 8:13 – Every day fight this battle. WIN. Not because you have the courage of David.

Romans 8:10-11 – Fight because you have faith in Jesus, and His victory leads your charge!