

Remnant Life Church
May 22, 2016
Sunday School Stories Retold:
David's Vision of Goliath
I Sam 17:4-50

- Florance Chadwick – 1952
 - Swim from Catalina Island to the coast of CA; approx. 22 miles
 - Fog settled in as she began
 - After several hours she became disoriented and had to be pulled into the escort boat
 - Only 300 yards from shore
 - “All I could see was hopelessness”
- Our vision or how we view things will most often play a large part in whether we experience victory or suffer defeat
- **READ – I Samuel 17:4-50**
- The easy analogy of this perhaps most familiar of all biblical stories is that Goliath represents the big challenges of our lives
- While that is true I want our focus this morning to be not on Goliath but on David
- David had a choice on how to view what was going on around him
 - He could have chosen the conventional wisdom of Saul and his army
 - Which meant that his vision would have been very limited
 - That same choice is facing each of us today and every day
 - Will I look at the challenges of my life with the limited vision of the faithless or through the eyes of faith?
- Hadden Robinson
 - Distinguished Professor of Preaching
 - Former President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary wrote this in one of his books – “In any situation, what you ARE determines what you see and what you see determines what you DO.”
- Who were the Philistines?
 - They were descendants of one of Noah’s sons – Ham (**Gen 10:13**)
 - Ham was the cursed son of Noah (**Gen 9:24-25**)
 - God said that Ham would be a slave to his brothers Shem and Japeth
 - Contention and strife for all time
 - Who were the descendants of Shem? The nation of Israel through Abraham
 - Who are the modern descendants today of Ham’s line?
 - The Arabic nations – there will never peace between those two sides until Jesus comes again
- The Philistines worshipped two primary gods – Dagon
 - **I Sam 5** – the Philistines had captured the Ark of the Covenant and taken it to the temple of Dagon
 - + The next morning the statue is found lying on its face before the Ark

- + Set back up; next morning on its face with its head and hands broken off
- When Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle Saul's headless body was displayed in the temple of Dagon (**I Sam 31**)
- The female counterpart Ashteroth – the moon goddess who eventually became the Roman goddess Venus
- The nation of Israel actually embraced this idol worship for long periods of time
- **2 Kings 21-23** – Manasseh puts an Asherah pole up in the temple of Jerusalem and King Josiah then has it torn down
- Solomon had even built an altar to this idol for one of his 700 wives - **Kings 23:13**
- While the Philistines were wholly and completely pagan God used them several times as an instrument of discipline when dealing with the disobedience of the Israelites
- At the Valley of Elah
- Goliath had a plan and stuck with it for nearly 6 weeks (**17:16**)
 - He came out twice a day at sunrise and sunset –why then?
 - These were the times of day that the Israelites prayed and Goliath wanted to strike fear at their times of greatest comfort
- **The Different Views of the Faithless versus the Faithful**
 1. The limited view of the faithless brings fear
 - Fear comes when we live by sight and not by faith (**2 Cor 5:7** - Paul tells us that we must live by faith not sight)
 - This is not for us to deny reality!
 - Goliath was imposing – 9'6" (6 cubits and a span)
 - + cubit approx. 18" (the elbow to the tip of the finger)
 - + span approx. 6"
 - His wore about 130-150 lbs of armor
 - The head of his spear was about 18 lbs
 - He was definitely imposing!
 - *Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear. Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. (I Sam 17:24-25a)*
 - Defy means to taunt, ridicule, and humiliate
 - Isn't that what Satan wants to do to Christians in order to raise doubt?
 - Doubt keeps us bound in unhealthy and destructive patterns of living and behavior
 - A secondary effect of that faithfulness is it tries to spread to others
 - This started with Saul
 - + Since the enemy had sent their biggest man the Israelites would have done the same
 - + Who was the biggest man in the Israeli army? Saul (**I Sam 9:12**)
 - + Who was this fear-filled army taking its lead from? Saul-
 - + Why? God had removed His Spirit of authority from him – (**I Sam 15:23**)

- Along comes young David who in verse 26 says basically why hasn't someone done something about this big-mouth?
 - They say to him in verse 33 – you're too young, you can't win!
2. The view of the faithful brings courage
- Courage is a confidence in the unlimited power of God
 - Removes the focus on our own physical, mental, and emotional limitations
 - An obstacle is not just a threat to us but a defiance and insult to our living God
 - That's how David saw Goliath – not as a threat but an insult
- In that faithful courage David picks up 5 stones – why 5?
 - Two possibilities
 - + While God had obviously assured David spirit through his faith of the victory did David know how many stones it would take?
 - + This was not weak faith but the experience that God had given him with the earlier bear and the lion
 - + It could also have been that David knew that Goliath had 4 brothers (2 Sam 21) and he had a stone for each of them as well
 - What is our response to temptation and sin?
 - + Do we just try and stay out of the way
 - + Or do we get mad?
- **What steps did David take to defeat this obstacle that we should still use today?**
 1. He ignored the doubts of the faithless (17:33)
 - Saul expressed his doubt
 - His brothers expressed their doubts
 - Any soldier who overheard David would have asked, "Seriously?"
 - Not one great thing was ever accomplished without those who doubted saying it could not be done
 - + In the early 1950's Richard and Maurice McDonald wanted to open a restaurant that focused on one main food
 - + They were told by nearly everyone they knew that it would never work – people wanted variety
 - + As of 2015 there are over 36,000 McDonald's restaurants in 119 countries around the world
 - + Even Jesus had Thomas
 2. He remembered his "Only God Stories"
 - A poof story is simply something that God has done to answer a prayer
 - The Bible is filled with them – Red Sea; fiery furnace; Lazarus, the feeding of the 5000, etc.
 - We have them hear at RLC (giving)
 - We all have them but satan wants you to either forget them or fail to recall them

- David recounted his “Only-God” stories – the bear and the lion
- David was in essence saying – God did it for me then and He will do the same for me here!
- You can choose to either dwell on the limitations that we each have or you can recall your “Only-God” stories and know that God is able

3. Acted boldly in the face of intimidating circumstances (17:43-47)

- It is not enough to simply believe – it takes action!
- Verse 20 tells us that the Israeli army lined up for battle every day but never did anything
- One of my favorite verses in the Bible is...17:49 - *As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him*

4. Give God all the Glory!

- David did this before he went out to meet Goliath when he said...
- (17:46-47) *This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, 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.*”

- Just as David had fought on behalf of an entire nation so Jesus fought for us on behalf of the entire human race
- David is a foreshadowing of Jesus to come
 - David did battle in the power of God's might
 - Jesus did battle on our behalf in the power of His Father's might
 - Today we do battle against sin and the schemes of satan in the power of our Lord and Savior's might
- What is your vision as you walk through your day?
 - Is it a vision of faithlessness that is dependent on your limited strength and resources?
 - Or is it a faith filled vision that sees beyond the natural because you know who and what you are?
 - A child of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
- The right vision will give you the right perspective this morning! When Goliath came against the Israelites, the soldiers looked at him and said, "He's so big we can't kill him." David looked at that same giant and said, "He's so big I can't miss!"