

Remnant Life Church
March 11, 2018
Facing a Giant Battle
I Samuel 17

- The story of David and Goliath is very well known
- It is a story of bravery, faith, pride of a nation; victory of the underdog, and God's will being done in spite of overwhelming odds
- David is very young when this occurs
 - He has 7 brothers of which he is the youngest
 - 3 of them are already serving in Saul's army (**I Sam 17:13**)
 - 4 brothers are too young (under the age of 20 – **Num 1:3**) and he is younger than them still
 - Most likely between 13 and 15; all we know for sure is that he is a teenager
 - But he has already faced many adversities and met every challenge (**I Sam 17:34-36**)
- The two nations of Philistia and Israel are on the upper ridges of the Elah Valley approximately 25-30 miles southwest of Jerusalem
 - **Map picture**
 - **Photo picture**
- Neither will engage the other because it would mean exposing themselves across the valley and then up the far ridge
 - They were willing to wait
 - Goliath tried to goad them out; to make a mistake
- Goliath has been a warrior all his life (**17:33**)
 - Most accounts put him at over 9 feet tall (tumor on the pituitary gland)
 - His armor most likely weighed more than David did
 - He would come out each day to mock the Israeli army
 - Once in the morning and then again at dusk
 - He chose those times to coincide with the times of prayer for the Israelites
 - He did this for forty days
 - Forty is the number of trial and testing in the Bible
 - It rained during the flood for 40 days
 - The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years
 - They ate manna for 40 years on their journey
 - Moses was on the mountain for 40 days
 - Jesus was tempted after 40 days
- In dealing with a Giant in your life you need to first identify where it is that it does not belong
 - **V 1** tells us that the Philistine army was encamped in Judah
 - This was land that belonged to the people of God
 - Today satan has encamped himself in places that he does not belong; places that belong to the people of God

- Our schools
 - Our homes
 - Our churches
 - Are we going to cower in fear like Saul and his men did or are we going to fight to take it back?
 - Paul tells us in **Eph 6:12** that we don't fight against people but against the rulers of darkness
 - We have the weapons
 - **Eph 6** tells us that we have the armor – IF WE WILL JUST USE IT
 - David was not willing to sit back and wait for something to “hopefully happen”
- Before we look at David's actions and how we can fight the giants today first consider Saul and why he failed as king
 - First, he saw only the exterior; he told David that he was too young (**v 33**)
 - Second, he put faith in the armor which are the efforts of man (**v 38**)
 - Third, rather than call on his soldiers to be men of honor and duty and truly lead and inspire them he tried to bribe them (**v 25**)
 - Finally, he could not see that the armor would have hindered and restricted David
 - When we allow things to restrict us we can become defeated even before the fight begins
 - We must ask for discernment to know how and in what way to deal with each situation
- David did three things of note even before he dealt with his giant -
 - He picked up 5 stones not just one
 - This was not because of doubt or a back-up plan
 - Goliath had four brothers – David had 1 for each of them (**2 Sam 21:22**)
 - He knew what he faced in the natural but still declared who he was in God (**READ v 45**)
 - He ran at the giant – not away (**v 48**)
- **The 5 stones**
 1. The Spirit of God
 - a. It began for David when he was anointed to serve God (**I Sam 16:13**)
 - b. That same power of God's anointing is in each of us who know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior
 - c. Without the Spirit of God the flesh is no match for a giant
 - d. Our focus needs to change from the giant that is out there to the Spirit that is in us
 2. God's Gift of Experience (**v 32-35**)
 - a. David had proven himself with victories in the past
 - i. Why are our memories so long when it comes to failures and so short when it comes to victories
 - ii. When you pray during the time of battle with the giant ask God to bring those times to your mind and be encouraged

- iii. This is not about your accomplishments it is about praising God for working in and through you
 - b. Jesus did not face satan for the first time on the cross
 - c. He had already defeated him once before in the desert and driven out demons throughout His ministry
 - 3. The Word of God (v 45-47)
 - a. How did David gain the confidence he spoke to Goliath?
 - b. Spending time with God while tending the sheep
 - c. The **Psalms** (like chapter 8 that we read earlier) bear this out
 - d. God's Word is active in our lives (**Heb 4:12**) - it is our sword
 - 4. Vision For the Future (v 47-48)
 - a. Not resting on the past but always looking to the future in confidence
 - b. (v 46) *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.*
 - c. Our great God brings great things if we will ask, if we will believe and if we will act
 - 5. Heart Filled with Faith (v 32)
 - a. Saul's heart was filled with fear
 - i. If he had the faith to go would God have used him?
 - ii. He was the logical choice being the tallest man in the kingdom
 - b. David's heart was filled with faith from the moment he arrived, through the times of other's doubt, to the taunts of the giant until he had the giant's head in his hands.
 - Goliath fell face first toward David and God's people
 - This was a posture of submission and servitude
 - The same happened to the statue of Dagon in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant (**I Sam 5:3**)
 - Isaiah, Romans, Philippians – "*every knee shall bow*"
- *What are your giants today and how are you facing them?*
 - Are you sitting quietly hoping they will just go away? OR...
 - Are you running toward them filled with the power of God?

Use the 5 stones...

- **Be filled with the Spirit of God**
- **Remember the victories God has already given you**
- **Rely on God's Word**
- **Have a vision for the future**
- **Be filled with faith**