

Remnant Life Church  
November 5, 2023  
**How David Saw Goliath**  
I Sam 17:4-50

How many of you have experienced a difficult time in your life?

- I don't think we need an actual response as that is something that we have all had to deal with at one time or another
- It is not a matter of if but when those time will come
- And how we view those situations, how we perceive them directly impacts how we respond
- Perception is a central part of our actions

In 1952 Florance Chadwick set out to swim from Catalina Island to the coast of CA

- She was an accomplished swimmer, but this was still a distance of approx. 22 miles in unpredictable ocean water
  - The largest percentage of time in the water would have been out of sight of land
  - Fog settled in as she began
  - After several hours she became completely disoriented and had to be pulled into the escort boat
  - The tragedy of this story is that when she was pulled into the boat, she was only 300 yards from shore
  - Her response as to why she needed to be taken aboard was, "All I could see was hopelessness"
- How we view or see the situations of our life will most often play a large part in whether we experience victory or suffer defeat

**READ** – *I Samuel 17:4-50* (Miles Saksek)

The easy analogy of one of the most familiar of all biblical stories is that Goliath represents the big challenges of our lives that we must defeat

- And while I think that is certainly true, there is a second side to that coin that will be our focus this morning
  - That focus will not be the giant, but David and how he saw Goliath
- David had a choice on how to view what was going on around him
  - He certainly could have chosen the conventional wisdom of Saul and his army
    - There is without question a time and place for conventional wisdom
      - Perhaps a better term for that is common sense
    - But there are also times that call for thinking in a way that might go contrary to the popular opinion
      - Because popular opinion, even common sense, can be very limiting
    - And when facing a giant in your life, in whatever form that may take, unconventional thinking (at least in the way that is determined by the world's way of doing things) often becomes necessary

- And in those times, the question then becomes, will I look at the challenges, especially the very big ones, of my life with the limited vision of the faithless and the world or through the eyes of faith in God?
- Hadden Robinson
  - Distinguished Professor of Preaching
  - Former President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary wrote this in one of his books – *In any situation, who and what you ARE determines what you see and what you see determines what you DO.*

### David and Goliath

- The account that Miles read takes place at the Valley of Elah
- Goliath had a plan and stuck with it for nearly 6 weeks (*17:16*)
  - He would come out twice a day at sunrise and sunset and scream out his challenges and insults – why then?
  - Because those were the times of day when the Israelites prayed and Goliath wanted to disrupt them and strike fear at their times of peace and comfort
- David witnessed all of this and could have seen the giant in one of two ways
  - Either without faith or with it
  - And what he decided determined how he saw the situation and that determined what he would do

### What does being faithless look like versus being 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 wrote that very thing to the church in Corinth
- This does not mean that we deny the reality of our situation!
  - Goliath was imposing – somewhere between 9’5” and 9’9” (6 cubits and a span)
  - His armor weighed between 130-150 lbs
    - The head of his spear weighed approx. 18 lbs
    - He was definitely imposing and very real!
- *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 faithlessness is it spreads 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*)

- But he was not 9' feet tall
- In 2000 the picture of me standing next to Jonathan Ogden (SB 35)
- 6'9" – 345 lbs
- Who was this fear-filled army taking its lead from?
  - Saul – a man who was on the sidelines wringing his hands
  - Why was he acting that way?
    - Because God had removed His Spirit of authority from him – (*1 Sam 15:23*)
- Along comes young David who in verse *26* says, basically, why hasn't someone done something about this big-mouth?
  - I'll go
  - I'll face this giant

## 2. Because the view of the faithful brings courage

- While the view of the faithless brings fear, God gives courage
  - Courage is a confidence in the unlimited power of God
  - Courage removes the focus on our own physical, mental, and emotional limitations and replaces it with the power of God in us
  - The obstacles and giants placed in our paths by the enemy are not just a threat to us but defiance and an insult to our living God
- That's how David saw Goliath – not as a threat but an insult
- In that faithful courage David picked up 5 stones – why 5?
  - Two possibilities
    - While God had obviously assured David 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 relatives, also giants, (*2 Sam 21*) and he had a stone for each of them as well