

1 Samuel 17

Introduction

- I. Goliath represents the ultimate threat and cause of fear
- II. What realities do you view as threats in your life and how do you deal with fear?
- III. Courage in the midst of danger comes from knowing that, “the battle is the Lord’s”

The Passage

I. The Villain: Goliath

A. The Philistines and the Israelites (v. 1-3)

A dramatic showdown

B. Goliath (v. 4-11)

1. “champion” (v. 4) = “the man of the between.” The one who comes forward to the space between the armies to fight as a representative of his people
2. His size (v. 4): over 9 feet tall!
3. His armor and weaponry (v. 5-7): the latest technology
A one-man indestructible force
4. His threat (v. 8-10, 16): mocking the army of Israel

II. The anti-hero: Saul

- v. 8: Goliath’s challenge: “choose for yourselves a man to fight.” Saul was the man they had chosen to “fight our battles.” He was “a head taller than anyone in Israel” (9:2). He is their king/representative. He should go out and fight
- v. 11: Saul is a coward

III. The hero: David

A. Introduction (v. 12-15)

-Such a contrast with Goliath!

-But, 16:13: “from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came on David with power

B. David at the battle lines (v. 17-31)

Key: David sees the size of the threat in light of the size of his God (v. 26)

v. 26: Goliath is mocking “The Living God,” maker of heaven and earth

C. David and Saul (v. 32-40)

Key: David sees the present threat in light of God’s past faithfulness (v. 34-37)

v. 38-39: David will not fight in Saul’s armor

D. David and Goliath (v. 40-51)

Key: David counts on the Lord’s strength (not his own) for victory

David, in essence, says: “I’m not going to beat you, God is”

“I come in the name of the Lord Almighty”

“The Lord will hand you over to me”

“It’s not by sword or spear, the battle is the Lord’s”

D. Israel routs the Philistines (v. 51-54)

Conclusion

- I. Putting ourselves in David's shoes
 - A. Consider the threats/dangers/fears in your life
 - B. Where do you need to:
 1. See the size of the threat in light of size of God:
 2. See your present challenge in light of God's past faithfulness
 3. Count on Lord's strength, not your own

- II. Putting ourselves in the Israelite soldiers' shoes
 - A. Truth is, we don't have the situational guarantees that David did as God's anointed king. Even if we're courageous, our circumstances may not turn out the way we want. Plus, we're not the hero of the story.
 - B. Jesus is our champion, the man of the between, the representative. And while we were helpless against our greatest enemies (sin, death, and Satan), he courageously stepped in and won the victory for us on the cross. And we now live in light of his victory: we have forgiveness, peace with God, and eternal life through his victory on the cross
 - C. So we experience victory not "over" every circumstance but we can experience victory "in the midst" of every circumstance because even if things don't go the way we hope circumstantially, the greatest victory has already been won.
 - D. Realizing the victory has been won through Christ can give us the courage to face circumstances faithfully. We don't have to fear rejection, loss of control, exposure, financial insecurity, death, etc, because even in the midst of those things we have every spiritual victory we need in Christ (see Romans 8:31-39)
 - E. So remember: "The battle is the Lord's"

Discussion Questions

1. Opening questions: What struck you most about the sermon/the passage? What surprised you? What confused you? What did you disagree with?

2. What are the threats currently confronting you that are causing you fear or anxiety? How do you generally deal with fear and anxiety?

3. How does putting yourself in the shoes of the Israelite soldiers change your perspective on this story, and how does seeing Jesus as your champion change the way you will approach your current challenges?

4. What are the parallels between David and Jesus? List all the parallels you can think of.

5. Of the three keys mentioned regarding David's perspective, which one do you most need to take to heart at this point in your life, and why?