**Lessons From David and Goliath**

*1 Samuel 17*

**Introduction**

1. **1 Samuel 17** records the well-known story of David and Goliath.
   1. **17:1-3** – Israel and the Philistines waging war.
   2. On either side of a mountain – a valley in between.
   3. Then they send out Goliath to challenge Israel.
2. It is an account we turn to often when teaching young children. **However, it is an account rich with lessons that even aged Christians can benefit from.**
3. The following are a few 🡪
4. Fear Debilitates (**17:11,24**)
5. Fear of the Israelites
   1. **17:4-10** – Description of the champion of the Philistines – Goliath.
      1. ***(v. 4) – “six cubits and a span”*** – about 9’ 9”
      2. ***(v. 5) – “five thousand shekels of bronze”*** – about 157 lbs
      3. ***(v. 7) – “six hundred shekels”*** – about 19 lbs
      4. **This man is a GIANT – he is huge, strong, and his presence is intimidating.**
      5. **(v. 8-10)** – On top of that, he is extremely confident – **“a man of war from his youth” (v. 33)**.
   2. **17:11, 24** – Israel showed great fear!
      1. Fear caused the people to shrink.
      2. They should have remembered who was on their side.
         1. Remember all those before them who crossed the Jordan and conquered cities? ***(cf. Joshua 1:9 “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”***)
         2. Fear can cause us to forget who we are fighting for and who is with us. (**Same with the 12 spies. Only 2 remembered the almighty nature of God who was on their side.**)
         3. ***The knowledge of who we are fighting for should crush our fear. 🡪***
6. Courage and Confidence of David
   1. **17:33** – Saul did not have a confidence in David’s resolve to fight the Philistine champion.
   2. **17:34-37** – David’s response to Saul.
      1. **(v. 34-36)** – David was already able to accomplish great feats. **His confidence does not waiver in the sight of Goliath.**
      2. **(v. 37)** – He understood the deliverance from the lion and bear to be from God. God would do the same against Goliath.
   3. ***(v. 36) – “[Goliath] will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.”***
      1. **Nobody defies God without consequence. David understood how terrible the offense was.**
      2. **(v. 26, 45-47**) – Despite the size of the champion, David understood his defiance of God was a mistake. **(NOBODY STANDS AGAINST GOD AND WINS**!)
      3. **(v. 48-51) – David defeats Goliath by the help of God.**
   4. **David understood that God accomplishes even the greatest things through humble means. THIS INCLUDES US! DO NOT BE AFRAID!**
7. **Applications.**
   1. We are expected and commanded by God to do certain things which may cause us to fear.
      1. *Stand opposed to the world* (***cf. Galatians 6:14 – “I to the world***” – the world hates him for following God.).
      2. *Suffer persecution* **(cf. 1 Peter 4:16 – should cause us to glorify God).**
      3. **ETC.**
   2. **There are many other applications. We need to remember who we are living for, and all that to push us forward.**
8. Is There Not a Cause? **(17:26-32**)
9. David’s Question
   1. **(17:25-27)** – the reward for killing Goliath was established.
   2. (**v. 28)** – Eliab, David’s oldest brother, accused David.
      1. **(v. 12-15)** – Three oldest sons of Jesse to go to war, but David to feed the sheep.
      2. **Eliab’s accusation against David was that he was discontented with his responsibilities.**
   3. **(v. 29-30)** – David’s reply showed his actions were not bad, but were intended for good.
      1. He had a true concern for the things at hand!
      2. **He knew the cause was great. Someone needed to step up and fight for Israel. Fight for God.**
      3. Nobody was doing it, so David stood up and took action!
      4. **THERE IS A CAUSE.**
10. Application – Is there not a cause?
    1. **Jude 3-4** – The common salvation is threatened by false doctrine. Is there not a cause to contend? (*Some accuse others of making a fuss. However, is there not a legitimate need for contenders?*)
    2. ***“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12)*** – Is this not a good reason to fight? Only the soldiers of Christ who are active are rewarded! Deserters are never rewarded, rather they are punished.
11. Actions are Contagious **(17:51-54**)
12. The Israelites React to David’s Victory
    1. **(v. 11, 24)** – Before, they were greatly afraid and were dismayed.
    2. **(v. 51-54)** – After David took a stand and defeated Goliath they were emboldened to rush at the Philistine army.
    3. **David’s actions not only secured victory over the terrifying giant, but emboldened his brethren to fight!**
13. Application – We are to take the lead!
    1. **1 Timothy 4:12, 16** – Timothy was to lead by example. In so doing, others would be encouraged to follow.
    2. ***“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1)***.
    3. **Acts 6:11-14** – People falsely accused Stephen with charges worthy of great punishement.
    4. **Acts 7:51-60** – Stephen continued to preach despite the threat. He died because of his faith.
    5. **Acts 8:1-4** – Those who were scattered after Stephens death, and Saul’s havoc wreaking went about doing the same thing that God Stephen killed.
       1. Did Stephen’s display of faith have anything to do with the decision to go and preach?
       2. **They witnessed the courage and faith of Stephen, and were emboldened to do the same.**

**Conclusion**

1. The true story of David and Goliath teaches us many lessons. Even more than what we covered.
2. **We must remember that (1) there is no reason to shrink beneath fear when God is on our side, (2) there is a cause to fight for God, and (3) when we rise up in faith to do as God says, we can embolden others to do the same.**