

“Facing Giants”

1 Samuel 17

05/17/07

Scripture:

Psalms 18:2-3 “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.”

Introduction:

Have you ever been in a situation where you faced impossible odds? Such was the case for the students opposing communism in Beijing at Tiananmen Square on June 4th 1989. The little Chinese student stepped out in front of an entire tank division causing it to stop. It didn't take long for him to be removed and the tanks traveled on, but we all sit in awe as this man known only as “Unknown Rebel” showed more guts and bravery than most of us have seen in a life time.

Do you think this little Chinese guy influenced anyone else or was this just a statement?

Time Magazine list this photo in a list of the top 100 photographs that have changed the world.

What kind of impossible situations have you faced? Do you feel small sometimes?

Maybe the challenges in your life seem a bit overwhelming.

How many of you have been to Ripley's Believe it or not in Brandon Missouri?

-Story of Robert WadlowTallest man in the world

-Almost 9 feet tall next to a man 6 feet tall



-This is very close to the size difference between David and Goliath

Transitional Statement: We have been talking a lot lately about spiritual warfare. Today I want to look at how David faced a seemingly impossible battle when he fought the Giant, Goliath. I hope we can gain some insight as to how we should face difficult situations in our daily spiritual battle.

Lesson:

I. Israel faces war

1 Samuel 17:1-3 “Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.

- A. Israel wanted to have a king to be like the nations 1 Samuel 8:5
- B. God gave Saul who was a big tall man said to be a head taller than others 1 Samuel 10:23
 - In this they rejected God 1 Samuel 8:7
- C. It wasn't long before God was displeased with Saul for disobedience 1 Samuel 15:28
- D. David was appointed to be king 1 Samuel 16:12ff

* So Israel is in a mess lined up for battle behind a king who God has withdrawn from.

II. Goliath the Giant

1 Samuel 17:4-10 “Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. 9 " If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us." 10 Again the Philistine said, " I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.”

- A. His Stats 4-7
 - Champion
 - proven in battle
 - Seasoned
 - 9' 2" tall
 - Lots of armor weighing some 200lbs
 - Ready to fight

B. The giants proposition 8-10

- Put your best man forward to fight me....for the whole battle
- Looser will become the winners slaves

*Obvious candidate is King Saul

III. Israel's Position

1 Samuel 17:11 "When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."

- King Saul and God's people are afraid.....scared

IV. David sent to the battle field

1 Samuel 17:12-19 "Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced in years among men. 13 The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem. 16 The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand. 17 Then Jesse said to David his son, " Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers. 18 " Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of their thousand, and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them. 19 "For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines."

A. His dad sends him to check on his brothers and take them some food.

B. David stats

- Son of Jesse
- Youngest of 8 sons
- Shepherd boy
- Errand boy
- Servant
- Verse 42, Ruddy and handsome in appearance
- *Picked by God to be king of Israel 1 Samuel 16:13

V. What David finds at the field of battle.

1 Samuel 17:20-30

So David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took the supplies and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines drew

up in battle array, army against army. 22 Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard them.

24 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid.

25 The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel."

26 Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" 27 The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, " Thus it will be done for the man who kills him." 28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle." 29 But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?" 30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before."

A. What he finds 20-27

- Stand off
- A Giant defying Israel
- A fearful Israel
- A Coward King
- Offering prizes for the one that will do his job.

B. What he thinks 26b

- For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?
- Philistines are ungodly
- Israel is of God

C. Judged by brother 28-30

- Put down
- Discouraged

VI. David offers to fight

1 Samuel 17:31-40 "When the words which David spoke were heard, they told them to Saul, and he sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, " Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 Then Saul said to David, " You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when

he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, " The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, " Go, and may the Lord be with you." 38 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. 39 David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." And David took them off. 40 He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine."

-Why?

-32b "Let no man's heart fail on account of him"

-36b "this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God"

-David refuses Armor 38-40

-Uses what God had provided.

-Eph 6:12 this is a spiritual matter

VII. Goliath is Angry for not being taken seriously

1 Samuel 17:41-44 "Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, " Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field."

A. Are you kidding me

B. Am I a dog that you would come at me with sticks

C. I am going to kill you boy and feed you to the birds.

* He is basically spitting in the face of Israel.

VIII. David's words to Goliath

1 Samuel 17:45-47 "Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. 46 "This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands."

A. Here David comes face to belly button with Goliath

B. Not by sword, but by the name of the Lord

C. I'll cut your head off

D. Battle belongs to the Lord

IX. The Battle

1 Samuel 17:48-51 “Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.

50 Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.”

- A. David ran to meet his giant....what faith
- B. Cut off Goliaths head
- C. Philistines fled....now scared of the little guy

X. The effect of David's example

1 Samuel 17:52-54 “The men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted and pursued the Philistines as far as the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the slain Philistines lay along the way to Shaaraim, even to Gath and Ekron. 53 The sons of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines and plundered their camps. 54 Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent.”

- A. Now Israel stops cowering in fear because of the example of one man.
- B. They engage in their own battle...and get off the side lines.

Conclusion:

Is there a giant in your life calling out your name?

- Are you engaged in battle with your giant?
- Or are you hiding behind:
 - Fear
 - Failure
 - And anything else you can get behind

Church my encouragement for us today is to pick up:

- Sling of Faith
- Stone of Truth
- Run with Faith in God to meet your Giant

The reference to not fearing is listed some 365 time in scripture

God tells us that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us Romans 8:37
Matthew 19:26 “...with God all things are possible.”