

After God's Heart

“David and Goliath”

I Samuel 17:2-53 & 18:1-4

Introduction

- Please open to I Samuel chapter 17, and we are going to start this morning with story time, look at chapter 17, starting in verse 2 - Read the text until verse 49

One of the most amazing and well known stories in all the Bible – Picture of the Valley of Elah

- a story most of you have heard since you were knee high to a grasshopper as they used to say in Texas, since you were a little one
 - the story is a popular one – if you were to poll the 2 grade, 3rd grade, and 4th grade boys and ask them to tell you their favorite bible story
 - almost all of them – when David killed Goliath – Goliath went arggggh and David, swing, swing, swing and the stone hit Goliath's head and the giant went down and then David cut off his head, and the giant veins hanging – just kidding, the kids wouldn't say that
 - but they love this story and even as adults we love it to

But what is God really trying to communicate through this story that introduces us to David as not just some shepherd boy, musician, but the warrior who would someday be King

- what is God trying to communicate with us
 - well if you are taking notes this morning, and I believe if there is something that is being said that is of note, you will take notes and write it down and think it through and pray it in

But I believe the true and real story of David and Goliath was meant to communicate from God to us both an inspiration and at the same time an illustration

- and #1 inspiration and #2 - an illustration

First of all this morning – this story is an inspiration

- why would I say that?
 - Because all of us face giants in our lives
 - Oh not Jack in the bean stock giants
- But giant circumstances – a health issue
 - My mom called this week and let me know she has stage four cancer – that is a giant in her life and my life right now
 - Maybe you have giant health issues
- Maybe for you it is a giant relationship problem
 - The person you are with, your husband, your wife, they may as well be a Philistine giant – no real heart for the Lord, no sensitivity to needs, just brittleness and attitude
- Maybe for you it is a giant financial problem
 - That debt looks like it's nine feet tall, looming over you – yelling insults at you and you don't know what to do – you are at the end of your rope
- Maybe you have giant sin issues
 - You struggle with lust or bitterness
 - Or you are just angry – you drive angry – I see you
 - You go to work angry
 - You have giant sin issues
- And day after day, just like this real giant in the valley of Elah – your giant problem, your giant issue keeps coming out over and over and yelling insults and discouragements your way

Well if you feel this way, and we all do at different seasons in our lives – giant problems, giant health issues, giant relationship problems, giant financial struggles, and giant sin issues

- if you feel this way, well God records this story in the word of God, #1 – as an inspiration to you

David had to face a giant

- I mean, picture the scene that we just read
 - David is coming to bring food and snacks and encouragement to his brothers in the field of battle

And as he gets to the battle field he hears that the Philistines have suggested single combat to solve their problems

- it was common in the Middle East at this time, especially after years of battles where heavy casualties were experienced on both sides, which had been the case for sure between Israel and the Philistines
 - it was common in such situations to have one man represent you on the field of battle
 - your best warrior verses theirs and whoever killed the other – well the people would then surrender the disputed land or whatever the battle was over

So on the one side you had Goliath

- now most unbelievers when they hear this story they think – well here the bible goes again with its fairy tales about giants
 - but Goliath was just at the extreme limit of human height possibilities even today
- Who the Bible describes as 6 cubits and a span
 - Now most Bible scholars believe a cubit was 18 inches and a span was between 4 an 6 inches

So Goliath was not a Jack in the bean stock giant, bending down to peer in your second story window – those types of Giants are fiction

- But Goliath was around 9 foot 4 to 9 foot 6
 - So again – huge, but not science fiction stuff
 - As we looked at on Wednesday Night the tallest person alive today is Sultan Kosen and he is 8 foot 3

Not only was he tall but big

- his armor we're told weighed 5,000 shekels or around 125 pounds
 - his spear was a like a giant weavers beam
- the tip of the spear weighed around 16 pounds – just the tip
 - so this man was tall, and he was powerful to carry around 125 pounds of armor, and weapons that weighed 40-50 pounds

Now on the other side, Saul was scared

- you see, don't forget that Saul was a head taller than anyone else in Israel
 - the Jewish Talmud says he was 7 feet tall, may have been, we don't know – He was their giant
 - but he was the obvious choice to fight Goliath

But he was not about to do that – so he puts out an offer – if anyone can kill Goliath, I will give him my daughter as wife and his family will be free from taxes

- Saul is scared and afraid
 - But in contrast to this you have David

Instead of being discouraged and cowering at this giant of a situation, David runs at Goliath, probably the first time Goliath ever saw that

- now the reason he could do such a thing was two fold
 - and write these things down, get them in your heart

How did David deal with his Giant?

#1 – David drew strength from God’s past faithfulness

- David goes to Saul and says I will fight Goliath and Saul says, you can not – you are just a youth and he has been killing people since he was a youth, you can’t do it
 - But David says in verse 35 – no – when I used to keep my father’s sheep, and I love that – my old job, that I had this morning
 - I had to face a lion and a bear

Now that is pretty crazy – I mean David is somewhere between age 15 and 17 when this story takes place, which means he fought a lion as a junior higher

- That is crazy – but it shows me – David is not bragging - we would have never heard this story before and wouldn’t have – and the reason he is not bragging is he knew it was the Lord – Junior Highers do not face lions and win, He knew it was the Lord– God was training him to face things he could not face in his flesh – he did not say – a coyote came and took my sheep – David looked up and saw a lion and knew this has to be God’s battle

I told the folks that were here last Wednesday how it was so hard to take over for Scott Cunningham – talk about a beloved youth pastor

When he announced he was going to Costa Mesa, kids were weeping loudly, and I’m just in the back, thinking, and now you get me – aren’t you lucky

- but I learned so many lesson of just being who God created me to be – that I wasn’t the amazing worship leading youth pastor, the sweet psalmist of Vista we used to call Scott but I could be who God called me to be

And I didn’t know why I went through that lion of a situation until I got to Texas and I took over a church, that only had about 15 attending, but they loved their former pastor

- and he was one of those pastors who was always coming over for dinner and playing softball after church and I tried to be that guy as much as possible, but I was thankful I had learned – God has given you different strengths and gifts, and you don’t have to be anyone else, you just need to be who He has called you to be

And listen, sometimes the lion of the situation you have faced in your past, the problems bearing down on you – God was preparing you for the Goliath you are up against right now

- and that is why we encourage you so often to journal, to write down what God is doing in your life, what you are praying through, what you are facing, what God is showing you
 - because years from now, you are going to need some of the things to face the giant that is coming next
- David drew strength from God’s past faithfulness and it strengthened him to face the current giant

How did David deal with his Giant?

#1 – David drew strength from God’s past faithfulness

#2 – David counted on God’s current participation

David comes out to meet Goliath and Goliath is really offended that Israel would not send their 7 foot king, but instead they send a teenager, who was ruddy, meaning red faced, been outside and good looking

- You send me someone who could be a model in the J Crew catalog, I want a warrior – I will feed your flesh to the birds, pretty boy
- But David says – I love this line

“you come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the living God whom you have defied.” – I Samuel 17:45

- That is such an amazing statement David makes
 - I bet God was just applauding in heaven
 - David realized there was only one giant on the field that day and it wasn’t Goliath – it was the Lord and David counted on God’s current participation

- I think right there the battle was won
 - David could have thrown that stone right up into the air, it would have come down and killed Goliath
 - He could have had it bounce off the ground
 - He could have thrown it backwards, it would have gone around the earth and hit Goliath in the back of the head
 - Because God was fighting this battle
- A few years later it would be written in II Chronicles

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those whose heart is loyal to Him.*” – II Chronicles 16:9

- And I wonder if this story was in mind when they wrote it
 - It just takes one to trust the Lord and believe Him for big things
 - To realize, Lord you are going to fight this battle, but we have to get here

David realizes, Goliath is God’s problem, not his problem

- He didn’t call the giant out, he didn’t provoke this nine footer to battle
 - Goliath was God’s problem
 - And so David wasn’t looking at himself with his sling shot and five smooth stones thinking how I am going to do this?
- He was looking at Goliath, thinking how are you going to stand against the God of the universe, I will gladly stand in and let God use me to take you down, some how, some way – this is God’s battle

It is about perspective

- My son got a new video game and has been challenging me all week, and I told him, no way – I was going to take him down, I asked where did you learn to play and he said, in the Jr. High room, and I said, well this is where I work, what do you think I do all day, I am an expert – so he was worried, now I had never played the game in my life, so when he was asleep I busted it opened and became proficient enough to beat a 9 year old - and the next morning I beat him, so while I am playing his sisters I was watching my son and he was looking at me while he was sitting on the couch and he was moving his fingers and I said what are you doing – I am crushing your head with my fingers – little nervous
 - But we have done that – with a mountain, the sun, our father’s head
 - Because it is about perspective
- We look at our problems and we see giant situations
 - But that’s because we are not seeing those situations in the light of who our God is
 - And that we are not alone

And friends we need to see this, because so often God puts us in giant situations because He is trying to teach us the same lesson

- and we don’t get it, we struggle against our giant problem in marriage, our giant financial problem, our giant health problem, our giant sin issue – I will figure out a way through this

And believe God so often will just let you try, and try and try, until you realize God this is your problem, I am your child and this is your problem

- and nothing is going to happen by me trying harder in the flesh
 - the only thing of benefit I can do is sit back and realize – your enemy Lord, your enemy, Satan is trying to rip me off, trying to do me in
- and Lord I don’t know how he thinks he can stand against you, the creator of the universe, so I am going to take your hand, or more correctly I am going to let you take me by the hand and I am going to let you fight this battle
 - I am counting on God’s current participation
 - God you have been faithful to me in the past, you walked me through this and that and you will be faithful to me again

- What inspiration we can draw from David!
- But how that works out practically in our lives I think we see in not just the inspiration, but the illustration

**David and Goliath is a great inspiration
But it is also a great illustration**

- I love pictures – pictures help me understand
 - So often I am reading through IKEA directions – put dowel BB into piece of wood mark CQ, twist counter clockwise, using your provided L shaped tool – what???? - But then I see the picture and I get it, sometimes

Well I love not just the inspiration of the story of David and Goliath, but the illustration of the story as well

- To me the true story is also an illustration of what the Son of David, Jesus Christ – did for us and what our response to His Work should look like and needs to be

I mean do you see it, do you see the picture

- just like David, the anointed son who was sent by his father to his brothers, was rejected by his brothers, but fought a representative battle for the nation
 - David's battle was going to have results for everyone in Israel that day
 - And when David won the victory, yes by using five smooth stones, but eventually by taking the weapon, Goliath's sword that was meant for him, and used the weapon singlehandedly leaning upon his Father in heaven – victory was won for the entire Jewish nation
- Just as David did that literally, so the Son of David, Jesus
 - Was the anointed son
 - Sent by His Father to minister to His brothers
 - But mankind rejected Jesus
 - But none the less, Jesus fought a representative battle for me and for you
- You see Paul the apostle said this

“Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.” – Romans 5:18

- Paul says just as through one man's sin, we are all condemned

You see our representative in the Garden of Eden, Adam, he bombed – the first Adam bomb – and because of that I have a sin nature, you have a sin nature – we are all sinners and worthy of death – that is the bad news

- But the gospel is through one Man's obedience – Jesus Christ – when He defeated sin and Satan on the cross

The very weapon that was meant for Him, the cross, Jesus turned and used it to pay for my sin and yours

- and the weapon that was meant for Him, Jesus turned on our enemy
 - and through one Man's work – you and I, just like the children of Israel that day
 - you and I have been made victorious
- Not because of what you have done – not because of any battle you won
 - But because of who represented you on the cross
 - You are free from sin and death because of Jesus
 - Do you hear me precious church?
- So what is our response?

You see some people misrepresent grace when they say, God has done all the work, there is nothing left to do – well that's true when it comes to salvation – our justification (define)

- David's victory won victory for all – and it was only him that fought Goliath that day

- But that doesn't mean we don't have a role to play in our sanctification (God making us like Him)

Goliath falls down, and the Philistines I bet thought “what a kiddie” – until... - read verses 50-53

- The Philistine champion is defeated, and the children of Israel – just sit there and do nothing – so thankful for David's victory?

That is not what it says

- The children of Israel – arose and then, what next

They shouted, they worshipped

- a right response first of all, for you and me when we realize and when we see all that God has done for us, is to rise up and worship
 - our times of worship in this room, yes, has some part to do with the guys on this stage, they have to prepare, they have to work hard, they have to know the songs
 - but a whole other side of worship – is when you and I as we sit there, just remember all that God has done for us – and we let out a shout! – We join in worship

I believe with all of my heart – that you precious church have as much to do with worship being “dynamic” as anyone up here does

- I remember my years out at the Bible college – the times I get to worship with them now – they worship
 - And sometimes they have someone gifted leading them and sometimes, it's a guy like me, who literally knows 4 chords and about five songs all from circa 1996
 - And yet they explode and the Spirit is there

And I just want to challenge you as we close in worship in just a minute and partake of communion, that we remember all that God has done for us – arise and shout – God is Great!

- our response should be worship and... (verse 52-53)

They shouted, thank God for David, and then they pursued the Philistines and they plundered their tents

- you see the work of Salvation is all the Lord, the son of David

You can't do anything to earn or work for your salvation

- you believe on Jesus and receive the free gift He paid for you
 - you can do nothing to earn salvation, but now that you are saved
- it is time to arise, to worship
 - and plunder the tents of your enemy
 - to begin to possess these things that God has purchased with His own blood
- maybe for you that is victory over lust, bitterness, doubt and fear

The enemy has stripped you down in shame

- do you know that is what Goliath means – to be stripped down, to take away, to exile
 - and that is what Satan has done to us through our sin

But precious church we need to understand that is what Jesus has done to him – Paul said...

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” – Colossians 2:15

- the word spectacle refers to what the Romans would do to a defeated King – strip them down, drag them through the streets – embarrassed, defeated

Jesus has won the war, you are not fighting for victory but from victory

- But it is time to step in and take it, take what God has purchased for you – Paul says
- Jesus has won the war, you were bought at a price, therefore, this is what you do – glorify God - claim his victories over immorality

- Just like David ran at Goliath – Lord this is your battle and I am going to cling to you and trust you for victory

David won the war

- the people plundered the tents of the enemy
 - [read 18:3-4](#)
 - and Jonathan in chapter 18, what did He do in response to David's victory
 - Jonathan covenanted with David
 - Jonathan took off his royal robe, his right to rule
 - Jonathan laid down the instruments of warfare and basically said – you are my King

What an illustration

- what a need we have to covenant with God
 - you have saved my soul – so my life is no longer my own – I surrender it to you
- I am taking off my royal robe, my right to rule, my right to demand my own way
 - To say – this is the way my life is going to be God - I lay that all down

And I lay down the instruments of warfare

- Lord I used to take up this thing, not against you directly, but in opposition to you, to gratify my flesh, to give into some sin
 - And I just want to lay those instruments of warfare down and say – you are my king – you have done so much for me
 - I want to join your kingdom, fight your battles and surrender my heart and my life to you!
 - I want to cling to you and let you face my giants – you have been faithful, you will be faithful – you are the living God – the same yesterday, today and forever – the same God that defeated Goliath, I will cling to you and let you work in me!
- What a great inspiration and illustration for you and for me