



1/29/26

Oh my goodness! I love the stories of the Old Testament! There is so much to learn from the people and how they responded to God. Today's story is one of those big ones. I love telling this story to my grandkids, but I don't ever want to treat it as just a story. This story displays the power and authority of our living God, our hero, our giant who will never be defeated. Not even death could defeat our hero. Amen!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Samuel 17:19-51

Today I pick up the second half of this very famous story about David defeating a giant. The truth is, David didn't defeat that giant... He knew he didn't. God defeated that giant, and He gave David the privilege of being the one to throw that rock. O Lord, as I go through this TRUE story, please help me not to approach it just as a children's story. Let me see what You want to teach me. Let me worship You for Your incredible power. You chose to use a kid with a stone to bring down a 9-foot-tall giant. Nothing is too difficult for You.

So... I think vs. 19 is kinda funny. It says, "Now Saul and they (David's brothers) and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines." Wellllll... what kind of fighting were they doing? They weren't fighting with spear or sword. Were they yelling back to Goliath, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me"? Or "Oh yeah? What about YOU!" Whatever it means, they weren't really doing any fighting yet.

David got up the next morning after Jesse told him to go to his brothers and he set off for the battlefield with the provisions. What he found was a lot of puffed up chests but no action. The Israelites went to the front line, and the Philistines also. But no one moved. And then Goliath came out while David was talking with his brothers. David heard Goliath's daily taunt and challenge. And then he watched as the Israelite army fled.

The soldiers said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? (HE'S HUGE - my interpretation.) Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And 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." The king was offering massive incentives. Apparently, the collective thought among the men was, "All the money and incentives in the world are not enough to get me to fight that beast of a man!"

But David said, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?" Then his heart for God showed. His motivation would not be to get money or a wife. His motivation was loyalty to his God... Elohim, all powerful one. "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God (Elohim)?" The men just answered, "Yeppers. Whoever kills him will get money and his daughter and freedom for their family." They didn't even notice what David said about God.

This shows me something. When someone's heart is hard toward the Lord, that person ignores Him. That person will look for any answer other than God... and give the credit of answered prayer to someone else. And yet God remains faithful and merciful. Amazing. O Lord, soften my heart to You! Let me see You and Your works wherever You are. Let me be so aligned with You that I will not compromise my loyalty to You for anything or anyone.

Back to David... Well, as true sibling rivalry goes, his oldest brother, Eliab, got mad at this little teenager. He said, "Why are you here? Who's doing YOUR JOB?" Accusation never comes from the heart of God. Accusation is a strategy of the devil, and it's very easy to get caught in that trap. Eliab continued with his accusations... "I know how evil your heart is. You've just come down to be a spectator." As if to say... "You think it's easy to slay a giant? You can use the words, 'Who would defy our God?' But you're not the one doing the fighting, are you? Talk is cheap."

Ugh! It's so easy to hear accusations like that and let them rile me up... and get distracted from what really matters... or even to say to myself, "What was I thinking? I can't do this!" That's always Satan's strategy for followers of Christ. He can't take away our salvation, so he tries to make us ineffective.

Well, it didn't work with David. He just said, "What have I done now? (I'm guessing he was used to Eliab being annoyed with him.) I just said a word. I was just asking a question." Then he ignored his brother and started talking in the same way to other men... "Who does this giant think he is, that he would defy the armies of the living GOD?"

So someone went to Saul and told him what David was saying, and Saul sent for him. David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul was like, "Dude, you're just a kid. This guy will pummel you. He's a seasoned war hero."

David said, "But you don't understand. I'm a shepherd. I've had to take out lions and bears, (oh my) even when they have the sheep in their mouths. I strike them down and take the sheep out of their mouths... and if they try to stop me, I take them and strike them and kill them. This Philistine is no different than a bear or a lion. FOR HE HAS DEFIED THE ARMIES OF THE

LIVING GOD. "Never be mistaken. God takes things personally when His kids are affected. He does not let it go unpunished. As David wrote in Psalm 5:4-6, "For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man." *My God is my Protector!*

"And David said, 'The LORD Yahweh who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.' And Saul said to David, 'Go, and the LORD Yahweh be with you!' Basically, Saul said, "Whelp. Can't argue with that."

Side note... Saul had already been told that his kingdom was going to be removed from him because he had not honored the Lord... but he respected David's allegiance to the Lord. While that's a good thing, God wants every heart to be one with His. Respecting others for their faith is nice, but putting my whole faith in God is what matters most.

Saul tried to clothe David with his own armor and sword. David knew right away it wasn't going to work. He had never been trained with armor and sword. So he took off the armor and chose 5 smooth stones from the brook, holding his sling in his hand. Then he approached the giant.

The Philistine giant went up to the front line and looked at this young, kinda handsome, teenager, and he felt nothing but contempt for him. No compassion. No, "I'm not gonna fight this kid. That's ridiculous." Just hatred. Why was God taking out the Philistines? Because like their forefathers, Ham and Canaan, they were evil in their hearts.

Goliath said to David as he cursed him by his fake gods who would not be able to help him because they weren't real... "Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?" Then he taunted David, "Come here, little boy. I'm gonna feed your dead body to the birds and the beasts." The giant saw David. What he didn't see was the God of power and might standing behind David with the armies of heaven.

David's response to the giant reminds me of what King Hezekiah said to his people in 2 Chronicles 32:7-8 when Assyria was attacking, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." Goliath did not scare David, because David knew Him who was fighting with and for him. David said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with 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 defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head." Whoa!!! This is a man who is speaking with no fear! Then he upped what Goliath said he would do to David... "And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hand." Wow! You wanna feed me, a stick, to the birds and beasts? I'm gonna feed your

whole army to the birds and the beasts. Not because I'm anything special, but because my GOD will defeat you! This battle belongs to Him!

Many people can make threats and promises of destruction. But no threat can stand against the presence of the Holy God. David's words were not just threats. They would become reality, not because of David's power or ability, but because of God's. David had the privilege and the honor of being the vessel God used to complete His plan. God could have accomplished His purpose without David, but David could never have done it apart from God.

With all his taunting and all his threats, Goliath went down with one stone from David's sling. All that buildup over 40 days for one stone. David fearlessly ran to the battle line, slung his stone at Goliath, and it hit him right between the eyes. The stone SUNK into his forehead and he went face down to the ground like a ton of bricks. And then David ran and stood over the giant. He took Goliath's own sword that was probably as big as David and cut off Goliath's head. When the rest of the Philistines saw what happened, they fled the scene. That's right. Not so big without your giant now, right boys? But MY giant God can't be defeated!!!

All those days of taunting and threatening. If only Saul and the rest of the Israelites had trusted God like David did! This is an important lesson for me. The first thing I need to ask myself when deliverance is not coming is, "Am I truly trusting God?" Am I standing with Him? Am I believing that He is bigger than the giant?

This question of trust does not mean that God will make everything perfect if I trust Him, or that I will face no struggle. Clearly, they were facing this battle with the giant no matter what. But they could have defeated the giant much quicker if they had believed that God was bigger and more powerful and able to overcome.

I want to be so careful how I say this. Some might think I'm saying that sickness and suffering can be overcome if we just have more faith. That's not what this story is about and that's not what I'm saying. Notice what the giant represents. He stood against GOD. He represents evil. I need faith to believe that GOD is willing and able to overcome the evil in my life, and I need to put all my trust and hope in Him. Sickness comes because we live in a broken world, but sickness is not a measure of our faith. The giant we often need to defeat by God's strength is the LIES, THREATS, and ACCUSATIONS that come through enemies of God. Those lies can come in sickness AND in health... in poverty AND in wealth. My job is to keep my eyes on the Lord and trust that He can and will sustain me through the battles, and He will help me overcome the giants. He fights FOR me. I fight in HIS strength.

Lord, please help me to have the faith and courage of David. Help me to refuse to listen to threats and accusations. I can be sure those don't come from You. Help me to know You so well that no one can derail my faith... not even a giant.