

How To Live For One When Others Don't – 1 Sam 17

Our text is 1 Sam 17 and the account of David and Goliath

At issue is **How To Live For One When Others Don't**

If you read your Bible, you're well aware that this Christian life is not going to get easier
Living for Christ, living for One (our theme for the year) – is going to get harder and harder in the midst of an increasingly sin-filled world

Especially in the last days, the days we're in now, where . . .

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, brutal, treacherous, and so on (2 Tim 3)

Because of that, many people *struggle* to live for One – I know I do at times, and I'm sure you do too

It's hard to live for One when so many *don't*, and could care less

It's hard to live for One when so many *won't*, and know better

It's hard to live for One when you feel like you're the only one doing so sometimes

Fortunately, God doesn't leave us without instruction or encouragement on this

In fact, the Bible is filled w/ such help, including the example here in David's life . . .

Where he confronts and then slays Goliath, when others wouldn't go near him

Driven by a passion for God, David lived for One when others didn't (summary of ch)

Instead of reading the whole chapter through, we'll pick it up in pieces as we go

The first thing we find here in terms of how to live for One when others don't, is to . . .

Remember who you are (v12)

The first 11 verses, are a description of the setting

The army of the Philistines are lined up on one side of a mtn, and the army of the Israelites on the other, with a valley in between . . .

And a man named Goliath from the Philistine ranks, comes out to the middle of the valley every morning and every evening for 40 days, and challenges someone to fight him in a winner-take-all duel

Which is no big deal, except for one thing – Goliath

He's 9½ feet tall – read v4-7

He was big, battle savvy (fighting since a youth – 33), and armed to the teeth

That's the first 11 verses

Then the author comes to v12, having laid that out, and turns his attention to a youth named David, and says . . .

12 – *Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse*

At first glance, this seems like blah-blah; Unnecessary information; extra

But if there's one thing we can be assured of in the Bible, it's this – when God wrote a book, he didn't waste words

We may not always understand exactly *why* he included certain things, but we can be certain it's there for good reason

In this case, I think this little bit of info is here not only to remind us who David was – something we already know from the previous chapter . . .

But also to remind us who *we* are – something we often forget; Let me show you why . . .

- *Judah* was the territory from which David came

Named after one of Jacob's sons, it was the land allotted to that tribe of Israel

And mentioned here, it connects David with the very *roots* of God's people . . .

The roots of God's people in the *past*

On the other hand, *Bethlehem* was the *town* in Judah in which David lived . . .

Placing him squarely in the center of God's people, in the *present*

And his connection to the Ephrathites seems to imply that David was a descendant of a significant *clan* in Bethlehem named Ephrath

All of which serves to firmly connect David with God's people and God's purposes . . .

Reminding us of something that David well knew – that he was special in God's eyes

A recipient of God's favor; One of his own

And that knowledge I think, was part of what propelled him to act on God's behalf with such confidence, while those around him were shaking in their boots

He knew who he was; And he knew *whose* he was

And that certainty fueled him to live for One, when others didn't

When the people around him forgot who they were as God's chosen people, David couldn't forget – it was who he was

He remembered well, and so should we

- If you're going to live for One when others don't, you must remember who you are

You must remember that you're a child of God – different from those around you

That having put your faith and trust, not in your lineage or family or religion or race . . .

But in Jesus Christ and all that he accomplished on your behalf . . .

You too are a child of God – adopted into his family, grafted into the same lineage as David, and set apart for the same purpose – to glorify him

If we could get this right; If we could get our identity in Christ firmly rooted in our heart and soul – half our problems would disappear (probably more)

We'd no longer worry about what others think of us – b/c it wouldn't matter

Only God's opinion would matter, and he loves us more than life itself, no matter what others think

Nor would we fret any longer about our failures – b/c our worth/value before God doesn't depend on our performance

We'd no longer wallow in our insecurities– b/c there wouldn't be any

We'd no longer succumb to our depression – b/c the joy of the Lord would *truly* be our strength, not just a mental fact

When others forget and live for themselves – remember who you are

Remember that you're . . .

The salt of the earth and the light of the world; New creation and a citizen of heaven

Sinner turned saint and a son of light; Slave to righteousness and a temple of the HS

Living stone of God's workmanship; Royal priesthood and a holy people

The bride of Christ and a child of God

When those around you suffer from spiritual amnesia and selective recall – remember who *you* are, and live for One like David

Second, if you're going to live for One when others don't . . .

Remember who you serve (v36-37, 45-47)

After the background on David in v12-15, the narrative continues with David being sent to the front by his father to bring food and news of his sons
So David goes, sees and hears Goliath first hand, and after convincing King Saul to let him fight the Philistine giant . . .
He choose 5 stones from the brook (tennis balls, 100 mph), and with his staff/sling – faced Goliath in the classic duel, and won

And the key to it all, was David’s confidence in who he served
Look at v36-37 where he’s talking to Saul, convincing him to let him fight Goliath
36 – David was passionate about protecting God’s honor (read v37)

David well remembered who he served – even when others didn’t
How could he forget? Having been delivered so often from so much, his memory was crystal clear, even when facing a giant
He remembered well who he served; And we’d do well to do the same

- To remember, especially when others don’t, that the One we serve – is the one, true God
Not the figment of someone’s imagination or dream
Not the invention of well-meaning men; Not the brainchild of a charismatic leader
But God – remember that when others don’t
Remember that the One you serve – is faithful
From Adam to Abraham, and Joshua to John – he’s been faithful to all generations
And now to you and I and countless other millions who live for him
Remember that when others don’t

Remember that the One you serve – acts on behalf of his people
Like when he parted the Red Sea; felled the Jericho walls; raised Jesus from the dead
Or when he *delivered* [David, (37)] *from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear* . . .
Increasing his confidence that he would deliver him fr the “paw” of Goliath as well
Remember that he acts on your behalf every day to supply your needs and fill your soul
Remember that when others don’t

Remember that the One you serve – is powerful
Read v45 – I come to you *in the name of*, that is, with the authority of God Almighty (*the Lord of hosts*) on my side
“You come fighting with the power of man; I come fighting with the power of God” . . .
The same God whose power is *more* than enough to overcome the giants in *your* life
Remember that when others don’t

And remember that the One you serve – *assures* victory
David said in v47b – *The battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hand*
God will not only deliver you *from* your enemies . . .
But sometimes he will even deliver them *to* you – as he did with the Philistines shortly after David killed Goliath

All of which means, there’s no need to be . . .
Scared of the powers of darkness; Intimidated by the world’s methods
Demoralized by the size of your problems

Discouraged by a lack of support when you’re the only one living for One . . .

Because we serve the one true God – faithful in all his ways and acting on our behalf . . .
With the power/authority to assure us victory, no matter what the situation/opposition
Remember *that* when others don’t

Speak up for what’s right (v24-30)

The mark of one who lives 4-1 when others don’t, is that they speak up for what’s right
Remembering who you are and who you serve is all well and good, but if it doesn’t translate into action, *speech* in this case, it’s all for naught
That’s what David did in v24-30 – he spoke up for what was right

He had just heard Goliath’s taunt and saw the Israelites flee
So he started asking questions, not so much to get answers, but to make a point

Look at v24-27
25 – They were in denial! Scared to death, yet dreaming about the rewards of heroism
26a – “You’ve gotta be kidding me”
“You guys are all dreamy about the glories of victory when you can’t even muster the courage to stay in the ring”

Again, I don’t think this is so much an inquiry to get clarity on the reward, as it is a rhetorical question meant to make a point

26b – “Who does this guy think he is?”
“You don’t curse God and shame his people, and get away with it”
“We have to *do* something” (read v27)
27 – they didn’t get it; they weren’t listening

The point is, David spoke up for what’s right, when nobody else would
He cut through the banter and said it like it was when everybody else was too scared to even think about it

Speak up for what’s right, even if others don’t – b/c the alternative is not good
In fact, Edmund Burke’s quote has never been more appropriate, then or now, when he said – *All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*
Speak up for what’s right – even if others don’t

- And do so even if your motives are questioned
That’s what happened with David in v28
This guy’s bitter; Hatred
Maybe he was jealous b/c of David’s anointing . . .
Or maybe he was embarrassed that his little bro was showing him up by speaking up
We don’t know

But in any case, he questioned the motives of David’s heart
I know your presumption – as if to say, “You think you own this place, just b/c you were anointed king and all”
I know *the evil of your heart* – “I know what you’re thinking”
“You just want to be here to somehow take credit for the victory; you don’t fool me”

- Ever been in that situation? Where someone questioned your motives? What do you do?
You do the same thing David did in v29 – where he responded briefly with the truth,
and then *he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way*
He considered the source, responded briefly, and stayed the course (he *spoke in the same way*)

When you speak up for what's right, and someone with ill-motives questions yours . . .
Consider the source, respond briefly, and stay the course (keep going)
Otherwise, you'll spend more time fighting skirmishes with your "friends," than doing
battle with the enemy

Be willing to stand alone (v38-44)

When you're the only one living for One – remember who you are, remember who you
serve, speak up for what's right, and be willing to stand alone

After trying to rally the troops in v24-30, David finally gets an audience with Saul . . .
Who eventually allows him to go out and fight Goliath, but not without trying to glom
on to his glory (read v38-39)

39 – in those days, if someone wore your armor in battle, and they won, you could take
some of the credit
So it's likely that this armor-fitting was Saul's way of stealing a bit of the glory should
things turn out for the good
But David wasn't confident that it would do any good, so he sheds it all (read v40-50)

- When you're the only one living for One . . .
Be willing to stand alone – and lead where others won't
Willing to lead a cause that seems hopeless; Or a situation that's crummy

Be willing to do so even when people doubt you can, like in v33 where . . .
The doubts of others didn't sway David, don't let it sway you

Stand alone, if necessary – to do the right thing
Especially when the wrong one is easier, or more popular, or more convenient

And be willing to stand alone – even if you're ridiculed for it, like David was by Goliath
You know who you are in Christ

- When you're the only one living for One, you have to be willing to stand *up*, and stand
alone if necessary

In 1858, George Duffield, Jr wrote a hymn along those lines . . .

Stand up, stand up for Jesus [he wrote], Ye soldiers of the cross
Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss
[Don't ever let the fame of God's name be tarnished]
From victory unto victory, His army shall he lead
Till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Stand in His strength alone
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own

Put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with prayer
Where duty calls, or danger, Be never wanting there

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The strife will not be long
This day the noise of battle, The next the victor's song
To him that over cometh, a crown of life shall be
He with the King of glory, Shall reign eternally

- Is that your heart? To stand up for Jesus, and stand alone if necessary?
To live for One, even if others don't?
I trust it is; So let's stand and sing it together