

Refine Women's Ministry

Lesson 2: David Defends The LORD'S Name - 1 Samuel 17

January 24, 2018 by Kim Peelen

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

Have you ever contemplated how faith in God (or in any thing for that matter) requires humility? If one practices humility, the other person must have priority above self - whether its agenda, purpose, safety, honor, or intellect. In contrast, if self is the final authority for determining beliefs, goals, or knowledge (what I believe or dismiss), then arrogance/pride becomes the predominant quality leading life's journey. Today we will see how David's faith and humility in the LORD controls his mind, and then directs his actions.

First Samuel 16 is a pivotal chapter in Israel's history. The prominent prophet-judge Samuel courageously obeys the LORD's call to anoint a young musician shepherd as the new king in his last official act recorded in Scripture - while the current king Saul is still in power. The youngest son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, David, already has a renown reputation: *a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him 1 Samuel 16:15*. The LORD reveals to Samuel the reason for ceremonially anointing David; however it is unclear if David's family knows the specific call on their youngest brother's life. If they do, it does not appear to raise their esteem for him, but rather incites contempt towards him. Will the king-elect walk worthy of his calling with all humility or succumb to spiritual arrogance like his predecessor Saul?

With All Humility

David Serves Saul: 1 Samuel 16:13 - 23

After the ordination ceremony of David, Samuel returns home to Ramah and David resumes tending the family flocks around Bethlehem. The special call from God does not alter David's life in the short term. But God has a new assignment for his king-in-training - a very difficult career - as one of the king's armor bearers and as the palace musician in charge of soothing the mentally tormented king Saul during his bouts of instability. The LORD's sovereign will places David where he not only witnesses his nation's king wrestle with an evil spirit, but his harp playing is the means God uses to relieve its horrific consequences. *So it came about whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him 1 Samuel 16:23*. A prideful man may have seen this job as unworthy for one consecrated for God's service, but David answers the call to serve Saul.

Psalm 8: To the choir director; Psalm of David
on the gittith [winepresses, refers to Feast of Tabernacles; God as Keeper]

O LORD, our LORD, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth,
Who hast displayed Thy splendor above the heavens!
From the mouth of infants and nursing babes Thou hast established strength,
Because of Thine adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease.
When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers,
The moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained;

What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him?
Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than God,
And dost crown him with glory and majesty!
Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands;
Thou hast put all things under his feet,
All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our LORD, How majestic is Thy name in all the earth!

To me, these words reveal a submissive heart that walks with the LORD.

The Philistine Challenge and Taunt: 1 Samuel 17:1-10

The Philistines continue to pester the Israelites, gathering on one side of the valley of Elah in Judah around Socoh with Saul and his army on the other. The enemy's most fear-imposing soldier leads the taunt to engage them in battle:

Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's bean, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him.

He is fearsome physically and needs a fulltime assistant to carry his arsenal of weapons!

*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. 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." Again the Philistine said, "**I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.**"*

He arrogantly inflicts emotional pain and fear as well as demeans their ability to fight.

David's Errand to His Brothers: 1 Samuel 17:12-15, 17-20

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. 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. David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock at Bethlehem. [David has two jobs]

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 our brothers. 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. For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.” 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.

How similar this assignment is to Jacob sending his son Joseph to check on his brothers; but that story ended much differently (Genesis 37:14). However, just as Joseph’s errand was the determined will of God, so is David’s.

Goliath’s Challenge: 1 Samuel 17:16, 21-23

The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand. . . Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle array, army against army. 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. 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.

David arrives at camp, hearing the same taunts that torment Israel’s soldiers.

Israel Responds to Goliath: 1 Samuel 17: 11, 24, 33

- *When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.*
- *When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. The men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who is coming up? Sure 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.”*
- *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.”*

Israel’s soldiers are AFRAID of Goliath, believing he will defeat them. His fierce appearance intimidates Saul as well. They look on the outward appearance of the enemy.

David Accepts the Challenge: 1 Samuel 17: 26, 32

- *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?” The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, “Thus it will be done for the man who kills him.”*
- *David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”*

David does not let the Philistine's imposing appearance frighten him, but focuses on defending His Mighty God against his defiant, blasphemous words, and offers to fight.

Eliab Reveals His Heart: 1 Samuel 17:28, 29

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 [probably with no one] have you left those few sheep [your job is insignificant] in the wilderness [how irresponsible to leave sheep unprotected]? I know your insolence [I am older, therefore wiser than you] and the wickedness of your heart [you must have the same wicked heart as I]; for you have come down in order to see the battle [even if this is true, does this expose a wicked heart?]." But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?"

Scripture states David follows his father's instructions, including getting a keeper for the flock, thus discrediting his brother's rant. Eliab's wrathful attack on David reveals his arrogant, appearance-centered, angry heart; God is wise to reject him as Israel's king.

In your groups read the rest of 1 Samuel 17: 33- 54

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Saul's Rebuke; David's Rebuttal: 1 Samuel 17:33-36

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." 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, 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. 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." 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."

1. Why does Saul initially refuse David's offer to fight this Philistine? Is this credible?
2. What facts does David give to challenge Saul's reasoning? Are these credible?
3. Describe how David views Goliath's challenge. How does it differ from the Israelites? What does this affront prompt David to do?

Saul's Faith in Weapons; David's Faith in The LORD: 1 Samuel 17:37 - 41

And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you." Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. 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. 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. Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.

4. By what weapons Saul gives to David, what does the king put his faith in?

5. What weapons does David use? What is his state of mind in this?

6. What weapons does Goliath have (see verses 17:5-7 page 2)? Who is with him?

Goliath's Disdain; David's Confidence: 1 Samuel 17:42 - 47

When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 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."

7. What does Goliath's assumption about his challenger reveal about his attitude [heart]? What does he predict for David?

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. 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, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORDS's and He will give you into our hands."

8. What does David predict for Goliath? Why?

David's Victory Is for All Israel: 1 Samuel 17:48 - 54

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. 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. 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. 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.

Then 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. The sons of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines and plundered their camps. Then David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his weapons in his tent.

9. What weapon defeats the giant? What weapon cuts off Goliath's head?

10. What/who do the Philistines trust in before the contest? After the contest?

11. Which prediction came true? How did the LORD accomplish the Israelites' defeat of the Philistines? Did they deserve it?

12. How do appearances create fear in you? How can David's defeat of Goliath help you face them?

Summary:

As young David delivers the provisions from home, he hears Goliath's challenge to fight. The Philistine champion believes his huge physique, massive armor, and deadly weapons will triumph over the insignificant army of Israel, and indeed it terrifies them. However, David does not focus on his ferocious appearance; rather, the blasphemous, insulting taunts to the army of the LORD spur him to accept the challenge in order to take away the reproach of Israel. The giant intimidates King Saul as well; who believes David needs his armor to confront the enemy. David believes he needs to defend the LORD's great name, and comes in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, with his stick a few stones. The uncircumcised Philistine finds the scrawny opponent insulting to his arrogant self and predicts he will give David's flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field using his sword, his spear, his javelin [and his shield and shield-bearer].

Undaunted, David confronts the giant and predicts the LORD will deliver him to his hands, he will strike him down [with one stone], remove his head [with Goliath's sword], and will give the **dead bodies of the army of the Philistines** [significantly greater victory over their enemies] **this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth.** The reason for David's confidence: **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 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.** David knows he is just a humble servant of the LORD with no power of his own to defeat the enemy. God only requires David to show up and trust HIM for the victory, which is what the young man-after God's own heart does. Seasoned soldiers of Israel were afraid to fight Goliath, but God graciously gave all of them a great victory because of David's faith and follow-through. The same Spirit of the LORD that indwelt David belongs to believers in Jesus Christ. We have the same mission to defeat God's enemies by showing up and trusting Him to win the battle.

Homework

1. Read Psalm 108 [vs 7-9 are nations that are put back in proper place]. Record your thoughts on what you learn about God. What do you learn about yourself?

2. Psalm 53. How can these words give you strength to fight for the LORD and His honor? Select a verse to meditate on to give you courage when you are afraid or defeated.

3. Read 1 Samuel 17:55 – 18:30 to prepare for next week. Summarize what happens.

4. Read through the Psalms 1- 150, taking several a day to meditate upon.