



Applied Faith Men's Bible Study

South Hills Baptist Church

7350 Granbury Rd.

Fort Worth, TX 76123

David, Slaying Giants

Lesson #1

1 Samuel 17

The story of David and Goliath is wonderful on many levels. The face value of the story is that God works through His people to do amazing things. But there is so much more we can learn from 1 Samuel 17 and this magnificent story. Here are some practical life lessons we can learn from David's submission to God.

Obedience

Without complaint David obeyed his father when Jesse asked David to take food to his brothers and check on them (1 Samuel 17:17-20). Apparently, David didn't have a great relationship with his brothers. The way Eliab (the eldest) spoke to David when he arrived at

the Israelite camp seems to indicate there was a great deal of tension among the siblings (1 Samuel 17:28, 29).

When David's father asked him to do a job, David obeyed (1 Samuel 17:20). When David was prompted by his spirit to take a stand for the Lord, he did it without hesitation (1 Samuel 17:26, 29). When Saul asked David to take his armor for the battle, David apparently tried to comply, but had to respectfully decline (1 Samuel 17:38, 39).

God has placed authorities over each one of us. We should be willing to obey in every situation. There are times when obedience is not possible (Peter spoke of this in Acts 5:29). But submission is necessary in these cases. For example, while Daniel could not obey the king's command to refrain from worshiping God, he did submit to the punishment that was enacted upon him. God gained a great victory before the people of Babylon because of Daniel's submission, not because of his refusal to worship the king.

In this story of David and Goliath, we see David as a young man of obedience. God calls us to be obedient servants, not tyrannical rebels.

Take a Stand

When David arrived at the camp he was shocked to hear the words of Goliath. He immediately thought that something should be done to stop the blaspheming giant (1 Samuel 17:26). It almost seems like David did not notice that everyone else was cowering in fear. His first reaction was that there was a cause for which to fight.

“And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (1 Samuel 17:26)

Trust God

David believed that God would gain the victory (1 Samuel 17:26, 32, 37). David wanted to be part of God's plan. He trusted that God could and would use him. How refreshing to think that someone would volunteer to give his service to the Lord.

Today we hear so many people say that they can't do this or that for the Lord because the Lord has not called them into a particular service. David didn't wait to be called. David volunteered to put his life on the line for God's honor. I absolutely believe that God calls people into His service. But, I also think that many people hide behind the phrase, "God has not called me to do that."

I am not sure who first said it, but I have heard the sentiment that asks, "has God called you to sit at home and not take the Gospel to a dying world?" Many people must believe that is what God has called them to do because that is exactly the way they have responded to Christ's call to carry His Word to the world and make disciples.

Look at Past Victories

David was able to trust the Lord because the Lord had led in many ways in the past (1 Samuel 17:34-37). David knew that he could fight Goliath even though he had never faced a giant in the past. David used the past victories to give confidence that God would continue to work in and through him.

You may be facing some great obstacles in your life today, but what have you seen God accomplish in the past? Don't you think He is able to continue to work in greater ways in the future? Allow those past victories to encourage you to attempt greater things for the Lord. Maybe gaining new ground in your spiritual life is not what you need right now. Maybe you just need to get back to where you once were in your relationship with God. Get back there by being inspired by God's faithfulness to you in the past. Then boldly step forward into new victories God wants to give you.

Surrender Your Talents

We know a few of David's talents by this point in his life. We know that he was a skilled musician and that he was a capable shepherd. Music didn't seem to be the tool to pull out when facing a warrior giant. David surrendered his shepherding skills to do a work for the Lord.

It is amazing to me to see people with wonderful talents and abilities sit back in church and not get involved for the Lord. They will even say things like, "if I could sing like Mrs. B. or speak like the pastor, then I would do something for the Lord." Yet, these same people could be used to win children to the Lord by love and affection if they would step into a Sunday school class. Or they could use their computer skills to share the Gospel through the Internet or keep the church's computers running properly. It takes a simple step of faith to use their skills for the Lord.

David had already demonstrated his great musical talent in the previous chapters of 1 Samuel. But that very public and prestigious skill of playing the harp did no good in this situation. What won the day was

David's ability that was honed while being an unknown shepherd boy who dedicated his life to living with stinky sheep.

Application/Activity

We are going to actively engage, as a group of men, in planning our "Crusade"! We have the general outline of what we are going to do, now we need to work on specifics. I want each of us to come up with five ideas pertaining to our Crusade. Examples would be, how do we get funding for a bounce house or blow up water slide; how do we work our message of God into each event; do we come up with a t-shirt to sell that will promote our events; etc., etc., etc. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday I will text each person present tonight for a different idea. This is our chance to get out of our walled church and apply our faith in an area of town that desperately needs it. Please pray on this and put thought to it.

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