

David & Goliath

1 Samuel 1:1-58



January 2, 2011



bible verse

Committing to memory

1 Samuel 17:45

You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.



story lesson

Bible story

Do you remember the compare and contrast element in the opening part of 1 Samuel between Samuel and Eli's two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas? The good son versus the bad sons? The theme of compare and contrast lives on between David and Saul—the good king versus the bad king (the specific kind of humanity God desires). Right after David was anointed by Samuel there was a key verse that cannot be missed: "Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him" (1 Samuel 16:14). Compare and contrast that with this: "...and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power" (1 Samuel 16:13). And so it begins, the comparing and contrasting comings and goings of King Saul and the soon-to-be King David.



DAVID VS. SAUL

The Philistines (those ever-present enemies of Israel) gathered their forces for war against the Israelites. Saul and the Israelite army assembled and drew up their battle lines to meet the Philistines in battle. A champion by the name of Goliath, a man over 9 feet tall with a lot of huge equipment on him, came out and defied the army of Israel. He challenged them to send out a man to fight him. If that man is able to kill him, then

the Philistines will become their subjects. However, if that man loses, then the Israelites become their subjects. "On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified" (1 Samuel 17:11). They ducked tail and ran. They were afraid. So they stayed on their battle lines and each day they heard the taunting and ridiculing of Israel and her God by the champion, Goliath. This lasted for forty days.

Meanwhile, David (the freshly anointed king, although no one knows about it except Jesse's family) goes and takes some food to his brothers who are a part of the Israelite army. When he goes to give the food to his brothers, he hears the champion, Goliath shouting his usual defiance. David overheard the army guys saying that if anyone were to go out and fight this giant for the king, then he would get great wealth, be given the king's daughter for marriage, and not have to pay taxes for the rest of his life. Eliab, David's older brother, saw his younger brother talking with the army guys and got jealous. "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle" (1 Samuel 17:28). David retorted in a way that younger brothers usually do, then turned to talk with someone else. David's persistent questions were overheard and reported to Saul, who sent for him. In King Saul's presence, David said: "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him" (1 Samuel 17:32).

Now remember, who should be fighting this uncircumcised Philistine? David or Saul? Right, Saul should be. So why isn't he? Not representing very well.



Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been fighting man from his youth" (1 Samuel 17:33). This did not deter David's valiance. He goes on to tell Saul about the bear and the lion that came in to harm his sheep, and with the Lord's strength, he killed those two beasts with his bare hands. And this is exactly what the Lord is going to do this time. What great faith! Saul gives him permission and then suits young David with his armor. The armor of Saul proves to be too big and bulky and unusable for David (also because he is not used to wearing it). So David heads back to the front line. On his way he grabs five smooth stones from the stream and then goes to approach the champion.

The Philistine champion looks David over and then calls him a dog (the worse kind of compliment back then). Goliath curses David by his gods and says: "Come here and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" (1 Samuel 17:44). And then David tells the giant this:

"You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:45-47).



With confidence and strength in the Lord his God, David advances toward the champion. He reaches into his bag, pulls out a stone, slung it, and stuck the Philistine on the forehead. "The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him" (1 Samuel 17:49-50). David took the giant's sword and cut off the Philistine's head.

When the enemy saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran. The ranks of Israel took charge and ran after the Philistines killing them along the way. Thus victory was sweet that day in the hearts of the men of Israel...a representative of the Lord stepped out and "saved" Israel that day. And as for Saul, well from this time on we see the power struggle between what he is trying to hold on to and what God is taking away from.

The king is not just the highest political office during Israel's history. The king was the anointed ruler over the people of God. It was not a position to be taken lightly. The king was the representative of God for his people. God's plan for the world was wrapped up in the kingship of this tiny nation. Being a king meant being God's representative and acting on His behalf. To cower and hide from an enemy of God was not the way a king was supposed to act. The king was to charge into the field, trusting in the Lord God as his rear guard and to go before him. Faith is a major requirement as a king, a representative of God.





life application

Making it real

Representative

The more I delve into the idea of God's representative throughout the Old Testament, the bigger of a picture I get of how we are to be as the church. We are the representatives of God on this earth. We are the body of Christ. We are the physical manifestation of Christ in the here and now. What the world sees in the church, amongst its people, displays who Jesus Christ is, thus revealing what God is all about. So the question becomes: How do you represent? Do you allow people to see the Jesus in you and in your life? Or are you a secret agent for the Lord?



questions

remembering

1. **What was the giant's name?** Goliath
2. **What was the name of the boy who eventually killed Goliath?** David
3. **What did King Saul try to put on David?** His armor
4. **What did David use to kill Goliath with?** Slingshot
5. **Why did David fight Goliath?**
6. **Why didn't King Saul fight Goliath?**



coloring sheet

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