

David's Sling Shot

“Ordinary Object, Extraordinary Meanings”



“Then said David to the Philistine, ‘Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.’” 1 Samuel 17:45

Do you have a giant in your life? We all know the story of how a young boy, David, took a smooth stone and killed a giant named Goliath. David was the youngest in his family so while the others were out fighting the Philistines, he was tending the sheep. One day his father asked him to take some food to his brothers who were part of the army and also give some to the commanders. Maybe the father thought that if he sent some food to the commanders they would not put his sons in the front of the battle. When David got there he talked with his brothers and then started asking questions about the battle and the men they were fighting.

David was told that one man, Goliath, was constantly badgering the Israelites and each day he would ask for one of them to battle him as an individual. All of them were afraid of him. He was almost ten feet tall and had a complete set of armor. Saul the king wasn't going to do battle with him, and so they were at a standoff! They told David that the man who killed Goliath would be given Saul's daughter in marriage which would put him in the royal family. Then the Israelites would be over the Philistines. David told them that he was concerned that this man was disgracing the God of Israel. He kept asking questions, and then his brother found out that he was talking with the other soldiers and he was upset. What right did this young kid have to be asking questions? He blamed him for just coming down to see the battle and that he was conceited and had left the sheep alone in the fields. Never mind that he had brought the brother food!!!

David continued to talk with the other soldiers and word got out to Saul that this young man wanted to help. When Saul approached David, David volunteered to go up against Goliath. Saul told him that he was too young, but David insisted. David said to Saul “Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Samuel 17 34-37 Saul put armor on him and was ready to send him up against Goliath. Saul did give his blessing to David. “Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the LORD be with you.’” 1 Samuel 17:37b

I wonder what David's brothers and the other soldiers thought about this. None of them were willing to go and fight, but this young man was willing to take on the giant.

The armor was too heavy and so David said he would use his sling shot and a few stones from the creek. As he approached Goliath, Goliath said “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks? Come here and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!” 1 Samuel 17:43-44.

David replied “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.” 1 Samuel 17:45. And as the saying goes, the rest is history! David's faith caused him to look at things from a different perspective. He knew he had God's power behind him.

Sometimes we forget that God is with us and try to do things on our own, or we become a coward like Saul who wanted someone else to fight his battles. Saul was often a very jealous and devious man.

David saw what had to be done and decided that with God's help he could do it. The power of prayer is there with us many times, but we often forget that we are not asked to do anything by ourselves.

We aren't asked to kill a giant, but we are asked to do other things. The giant may be someone that has wronged us. It may be an addiction to anything, not necessarily drugs. It could be smoking, overeating, etc. It may be to gossip or wasting time or any number of things that stand between us and doing what we should be doing. Sometimes something seemingly insignificant at the time can become that giant that takes over control.

There is a way to beat that giant. It is the same way that David used so many years ago. He called on his Lord. We have that same opportunity today. We don't have to do it out in the middle of the field or let anyone else know we have called our Lord. He is there in our quietness waiting for us to talk with Him. With His help, we can defeat the giant also.

Prayer: Spirit of the Living God, please fall afresh on me. Melt me into Your mold, fill me with Your Spirit, and use me to do Your will. Open a new life for me and give me courage to live the life You have given to me through Jesus Christ. Amen

1. Are you facing a giant problem or impossible situation?
2. How can you take steps to defeat that giant?
3. Why was David successful in defeating the giant Goliath?
4. Do you need to take courageous steps to face insults and bad circumstances?
5. Can you see the situation more clearly after time in prayer?

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