

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 17:1-58

"The Gospel According to David and Goliath" – August 20, 2017



Introduction

1 Samuel 17 is not just a story about David and Goliath, it's primarily a story about David and Saul. David has just been anointed as Israel's king to replace Saul ([1 Samuel 16:12-13](#)). David was easy to overlook as a no-name shepherd boy, but he was God's choice, for "The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). But, God's people can't see into the heart like God can. With Saul still in office, they couldn't see the difference between these leaders on their own, so God sends a giant into the story. Saul and David's contrasting responses reveal the different hearts of each man and teach us something we need to know about ourselves and our God to live victoriously.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. Realize our greatest foe (17:1-11)
- II. Rejoice in our greatest hero (17:12-40)
- III. Find hope from a battle already won (17:41-58)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 17:1-11](#)

A lot of detail goes into describing Goliath: he's over 9 feet tall, is wearing impenetrable armor, carries fearsome weapons and mocks the people of God. When he comes out and asks for a challenger to take him on, the entire Israelite army (including Saul) cowers in fear because they know they are no match for him. While this was true *humanly* speaking, they had forgot of the countless times God had saved them from formidable foes in the past. Israel didn't just have a giant problem, at the root, they had a sin problem. They struggled to trust God and Goliath happened to be the circumstance to leave them paralyzed in fear that day.

As painful as trials in this life are, they are *temporary*. In contrast, our sin blinds us to the resources available for us in God *today* and the consequences of sin being *eternal*. Reflect on your own testimony of becoming a Christian. Can you remember being faced with the reality of your sin – feeling the unbearable weight of it and then coming to know the joy and freedom of having your sin forgiven when you heard the gospel and trusted in Christ? What keeps you from seeing sin and its consequences as your greatest foe?

Additional reading: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Romans 3:10-20

2) Read [1 Samuel 17:12-40](#)

For 40 days, Goliath made Israel to shake in fear. Their fear was due to seeing Goliath *only* as man sees. When David comes on the scene, he's the only one who seems to see Goliath through the lens of faith. He alone seems to see that his gods are dead and pathetic, while Israel's God, Yahweh, is the one and only *living* God. Zealous for God's glory, David refuses to stand by and do nothing when Goliath mocks not only God's people, but God Himself!

Knowing the bad news of our greatest enemy sets us up to rejoice in the fact that God has sent a hero, a savior. David points forward to Jesus who would come to fight our greatest foe who we couldn't defeat on our own. What are ways that you look at life's circumstances as man sees (the externals) rather than eyes of faith (in light of who God is and what his promises are)? How can we as a church family help each other avoid fear and know the confidence that comes from the perspective of faith?

Additional reading: Proverbs 14:26, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 10:23-25

3) Read [1 Samuel 17:41-58](#)

When David struck down Goliath, the Philistines saw they were in trouble and fled. The tables had turned, and God used David to bring about a decisive victory. All that was left for Israel to do was plunder the camp. Though we are in a spiritual battle and must fight for faith daily ([Ephesians 6:10-20](#)), we fight an enemy an enemy who has been defeated ([Colossians 2:13-15](#)). We are no longer slaves to sin, we have been set free to know and follow God ([Romans 6:1-14](#)). That means we will still grieve on this side of heaven but we need not be consumed by our grief because we know how it ends, we know that victory is guaranteed. How does the truth that the battle is already won provide hope for where you're at today? How does it help push away fear and grow our confidence in the face of challenging circumstances?

Additional reading: Romans 6:11, Philippians 1:6, Matthew 16:18, Revelation 21:1-4

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>