

March 16, 2014

## A Giant with an Attitude

Text 1 Samuel 17: 1-52

### Continuing them on 40 days of Lent

The number 40 in the Bible has no specific meaning like the numbers 6 (famous 666) – man or the number 8 – new beginnings

But it appears 15 times in Old and New Testaments... each time with a connecting theme of testing or judgment

☆ Jesus 40 days and nights of fasting before he begins his public 3 year ministry

There is a great opportunity available to us as individuals and a church during these 40 days of Lent ... if we become willing and active participants

### Read text

### The battle plan of the Enemy: to get us to focus on the Giant and lose faith in God

“The University Professor,” by Chuck Swindoll

After 40 days of Goliath’s trash talking taunts, the entire Israeli army was humiliated and demoralized, anxiety ridden

Every morning and evening for 40 days straight

### It only takes one

On the 40<sup>th</sup> day, Seventeen year old David comes walking in camp with lunch for his brothers or so he thinks but it wasn’t Jesse Davis’s father who sent him but God

David was the youngest of eight brothers - when you’re the youngest brother of eight you have to be tough to survive your own family!

You only read about his three oldest nothing about the other four and David the youngest who seems forgotten left out on the hills of Bethlehem to tend the sheep

Interchange with Eliab the David’s oldest brother ... insight to their relationship – remember all of David’s brothers were passed over by God at Samuel’s visit

I can only imagine the look on Eliab’s face when his kid brother went out to face the giant.

When David arrives the last thing on his mind is single combat with a nine foot tall monster – in full view of two opposing armies

Goliath openly defied their God – just like that University Professor

Verse 10 *“Today, I defy the armies of Israel...”*

**The Giant still roars at God's people** wanting to put us into confusion and fear:

- The public schools are using new curriculum in elementary grades that challenge and dismiss the idea of the creation and a creator
- Theories such as “evolution” are now called facts –college level professors who dare discuss “intelligent design” (creation) are fired.
- Public prayers once a staple at graduations and other ceremonies are forbidden treated like criminal offences
- Parents of little children struggle, trying to figure out what I they can do about mandatory sex education that turns what was sexual deviant behavior into alternate but normal behavior
- Hospitals are facing closure if they refuse to cooperate in abortion procedures

### **Facing the Giant**

Goliath was a problem that had to be faced on his terms ... but not with his weapons

David faced the Giant without conventional gear soldiers were equipped with – his sling and five smooth stones but that's not how he killed the bear and lion!

David's declaration to the Giant. **“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.”** NLT

Who's he talking about?

### **Joshua 5: 13 - 15**

“And then this, while Joshua was there near Jericho: He looked up and saw right in front of him a man standing, holding his drawn sword. Joshua stepped up to him and said, “Whose side are you on – ours or our enemies’?”<sup>14</sup> He said, “Neither. I'm commander of GOD's army. I've just arrived.” Joshua fell, face to the ground, and worshiped. He asked, “What orders does my Master have for his servant?”<sup>15</sup> GOD's army commander ordered Joshua, “Take your sandals off your feet. The place you are standing is holy.” Joshua did it.

This is Jesus– one of his titles Commander of the Armies of God

David wasn't being brash or bold! He was speaking with the authority that only God can give you

In the 40 days that the giant was intimidating the Israeli army –

David was spending his time alone out on the hills of Bethlehem tending sheep –time that he was spending with God –

It might even be the time that God delivered him out of the hand of those animals, a stepping stone to the trash talking monster

### **The Giant Roars to intimidate:**

- You're nothing but a loser
- You can't even solve your own problems how can you help someone else?
- If you step up you'll fail and be humiliated
- The hole you're in is too deep – you'' never climb out
- The illness
- Odds are too great the giant too big ... you can't win

Song by Casting Crowns **"Voice of Truth"**

But the voice of truth tells me a different story  
and the voice of truth says "Do not be afraid!"  
and the voice of truth says "This is for My glory"  
Out of all the voices calling out to me  
I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth

### **Remember Whose Battle it is**

The voice of truth spoke through David that day

***"Everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues His people not with sword and spear ... this is the Lord's battle and He will give you to us!"***

When smoke had cleared it was the other army that was running in fear!

### **God is still looking for ordinary people he can turn into champions**

Jim Brennan was one of God's unassuming champions ...

At the Thursday evening service it was clear how powerfully, Jim had been used in his life by the Lord and here is the most amazing thing – most of the people as they looked around that packed out room there were surprised by the extent Jim's influence, and yet they weren't

Jim was so unassuming – did it in such a quiet way

God delivered Jim from a giant called alcoholism even before he knew him – God believed in Jim before Jim believed in God!

God believes in you! It doesn't matter if you think your too young or too old or too ordinary God wants to use you to deliver his people.

These 40 days of Lent will soon be over –

Don't wait for someone else to step up to be used of God ... You are the one God wants to use!