

CONFLICT WITH A GIANT

Intro: *July 4th comments* 56 men signed a declaration that was sent to Great Britain the most powerful nation in the world. But it wasn't signed on July 4, It was signed July 1 12 out of 13 colonies approved

Things were broken between the 13 English colonies and Great Britain. I can only imagine the fear that might have gripped each man's heart at they signed the bottom of that document. If they were to fail it would mean the death for treason and loss of everything they owned.

How did they find the courage? The majority of the signers were Christians, 29 of the 56 had ministerial seminary degrees.

They held prayer meetings and read Bible passages on the floor of the Congress, they were convinced that God was with them before they sent the document to England's King George III

Text: [1 Samuel 17](#)

⇒ There comes a time in every person's life when we're confronted by a threat that's twice our size

Cancer, bankruptcy, failed marriage –unexpected menaces threaten to take us apart

The way we handle that kind of crisis, tells us a lot about who we are.

Do we fight and struggle to gain control or do we confidently turn to God, knowing He's not overwhelmed by our crisis?

Our church is going through major changes

It's funny how we think we're good with change until change actually happens.

- We see and feel the loss a senior pastor who had been here for 31 years
- We're going through shifts in leadership
- Physical changes in our building
- Trying to navigate through unfamiliar somewhat frightening waters

It's been tough on everyone – including your church leaders who need your prayers , support and patience – were trying to figure this out as we go

A.R. Bernard: *All real change comes by way of crisis but not all crisis has to be bad.*

This morning we look at one of David's earliest challenges – the battle with Goliath.

The Sheppard boy vs. the Giant

People love underdogs, something about human nature ... we root for the little guy not the powerful and polished machine.

Game announcers call this kind of mismatch a David and Goliath scenario. Hollywood capitalizes on our feelings in movies

- Sylvester Stallone made a living and name for himself with the character of Rocky Balboa in the Rocky movies
- Star Wars episodes pits the tiny rebel alliance against the Evil Empire
- **Super Bowl XLVI – 46** The NY Giants, 12 point underdog against the undefeated sure thing Patriots ... they billed the game as *David against Goliath* (

People who've never cracked open a bible seem to know the story of David and Goliath

☆ David encounter with Goliath is much more than a story! It a lesson that teaches us we can face our most painful giant without running for cover

1 Samuel 17: (MSG)

¹⁻³ The Philistines drew up their troops for battle. ... Saul and the Israelites came together, camped at Oak Valley, and spread out their troops in battle readiness for the Philistines. The Philistines were on one hill, the Israelites on the opposing hill, with the valley between them.

⁴⁻⁷ A giant nearly ten feet tall stepped out from the Philistine line into the open, Goliath from Gath. He had a bronze helmet on his head and was dressed in armor—126 pounds of it! He wore bronze shin guards and carried a bronze sword. His spear was like a fence rail—the spear tip alone weighed over fifteen pounds. His shield bearer walked ahead of him.

⁸⁻¹⁰ Goliath stood there and called out to the Israelite troops, “Why bother using your whole army? Am I not Philistine enough for you? And you're all committed to Saul, aren't you? So pick your best fighter and pit him against me. If he gets the upper hand and kills me, the Philistines will all become your slaves. But if I get the upper hand and kill him, you'll all become our slaves and serve us. **I challenge the troops of Israel this day.** Give me a man. Let us fight it out together!”

¹¹ When Saul and his troops heard the Philistine's challenge, they were *terrified and lost all hope*.

Pretty bleak outlook for an army that's waiting to go to battle ... **terrified and hopeless**

¹²⁻¹⁵ Enter David. He was the son of Jesse ... from Bethlehem in Judah. ... Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to war. ... **Eliab**, the firstborn... **Abinadab** ... **Shammah**. David was the youngest son. While his three oldest brothers went to war with Saul, David went back and forth from attending to Saul to tending his father's sheep in Bethlehem.

We've heard those names before: David's older brothers were paraded in front of Samuel, who was ready to anoint the next king - The brothers who couldn't believe they were passed up on being chosen to be the next king in favor of their kid brother who hadn't even invited to attend the dinner.

Four years had passed since David was anointed by Samuel.

He's about 19 years old and still tending his father's sheep in obscurity with no clear picture of how God was going to move him from Sheppard to King.

God's promises are usually time sensitive – in David's case, it will be another 15 years before he becomes king in Judah.

Back to Samuel 17 The Giants is relentless in his taunts for 40 days

¹⁶ Each morning and evening for forty days, Goliath took his stand and made his speech.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Jesse sends David to Oak Valley to bring food to his brothers and return with news of the battle.

²⁰⁻²³ David was up at the crack of dawn and, having arranged for someone to tend his flock, took the food and was on his way just as Jesse had directed him. He arrived at the camp just as the army was moving into battle formation, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines moved into position, facing each other, battle-ready. David ... ran to the troops who were deployed, and greeted his brothers. While they were talking together, the Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath, stepped out from the front lines of the Philistines, and gave his usual challenge. David heard him.

²⁴⁻²⁵ The Israelites, to a man, fell back the moment they saw the giant—totally frightened. The talk among the troops was, “Have you ever seen anything like this, this man openly and defiantly challenging Israel? ...

The moment we permit fear to control our imagination, we become incapable of seeing the good around us. David ... entered Oak Valley with a God-dominated, not a Goliath-dominated imagination. God was the ultimate reality for David, and giants didn't affect his understanding of the way God worked.

Eugene Peterson

Driver's Ed class:

This week I was at St Joseph's college – teaching a session of 96 kids who were hesitant to answer any of my questions, not because they didn't know the answer but because they didn't know each other! They were intimidated not wanting to take the chance they might make a mistake.

David stood up:

- in front of his brothers,
- the entire Israeli army,
- the giant and the opposing army
- and somehow he wasn't intimidated

Was David afraid? Absolutely! He wouldn't have been human if he wasn't –

But he was driven by something greater than fear that day – David was prompted by God's Holy Spirit

The King's desperation: desperate for someone anyone to remove the daily shame of the giant's public humiliation - takes one look at David and says, *"Are you kidding me? Its suicide - You can't do it!"*

☆ **But David, talks him into it with the bear and Lion story**

³⁷ "... I'll do the same to this Philistine pig who is taunting the troops of God-Alive. GOD, who delivered me from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear, will deliver me from this Philistine." Saul said, "Go. And GOD help you!"

Saul could have added *...And me for letting you do this!*

The king was impressed by David's Lion and bear stories but there was more ... God's Spirit living inside of David was showing on the outside

David didn't even accept the Kings' armor!

This wasn't arrogance – it was confidence ... Confidence in God's power not his own ability

Lisa Whittle shares these thoughts: It's not matter of being brave ... just prepared – Jesus will handle the brave part, we walk in his authority ... God is the author and finisher of our faith. To have strength we must stay in His strength not depend on ours.

David went out to meet Goliath with no body armor. God was his body armor –

David Took time to collect 5 smooth stones from a brook and pack them in his nap sack

Goliath talks Trash to David (and you thought trash talk in sports was a need thing!)

⁴³ The Philistine ridiculed David. "Am I a dog that you come after me with a stick?" And he cursed him by his gods.

⁴⁴ "Come on," said the Philistine. "I'll make roadkill of you for the buzzards. I'll turn you into a tasty morsel for the field mice."

David's response isn't bragging its prophetic!

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷ *David answered, “You come at me with sword and spear and battle-ax. I come at you in the name of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel’s troops, whom you curse and mock. This very day GOD is handing you over to me. I’m about to kill you, cut off your head, and serve up your body and the bodies of your Philistine buddies to the crows and coyotes. The whole earth will know that there’s an extraordinary God in Israel. And everyone gathered here will learn that GOD doesn’t save by means of sword or spear. The battle belongs to GOD—he’s handing you to us on a platter!”*

⁴⁸⁻⁴⁹ That roused the Philistine, and he started toward David. David took off from the front line, running toward the Philistine. David reached into his pocket for a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine hard in the forehead, embedding the stone deeply. The Philistine crashed, face down in the dirt.

⁵⁰ That’s how David beat the Philistine—with a sling and a stone. He hit him and killed him. No sword for David!

There was only one vulnerable, exposed spot on that giant, his forehead and David hit the mark on the run – there would not have been time for a second shot –God was guiding David’s aim?

⁵¹ Then David ran up to the Philistine and stood over him, pulled the giant’s sword from its sheath, and finished the job by cutting off his head. When the Philistines saw that their great champion was dead, they scattered, running for their lives.

⁵²⁻⁵⁴ The men of Israel and Judah were up on their feet, shouting! They chased the Philistines all the way to the outskirts of Gath and the gates of Ekron.

What a reversal: We read how the army of Israel was terrified having no hope.

David saw something no one else did!

This week I was sitting in my living room trying to relax for a few moments before heading to church for an evening committee meeting. I ‘v been forced to do a lot of sitting these past 6 weeks because of back surgery

My neighbors twin boys age 11 were outdoors playing with friends and using imagination – having a great time – Remember those days when school had just ended and summer seemed endless – the days were long and you had the world by the tail?

I had a great time listening to them having fun – but if it hadn’t been for my recovery period I probably am not there to hear any of it

God wants to show us things that we have not been seeing up to this point

Remember ... After being anointed king ... David spent 4 years babysitting his father’s sheep – not exactly exciting job

Oh he had his moments – fighting Lions, Tigers and Bears _____ but for the most of those years he had lots of time to listen and watch

What God accomplished that day in Oak Valley wasn't really for David ... it was for God himself and for the entire dejected army of Israel.

Using David God reversed 40 days of humiliation in Ten minutes

He capitalizes in surprises using a teenage Sheppard not a soldier to turned an army from hopeless to victorious!

Imagine what could He do here in Patchogue, if we surrender to His plan and do things His way.

We started this by talking about battling giants, I know some of you have been battling them for a while and you're discouraged.

Comments by Ann Voskamp:

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