

## Facing Your Giants

11/14/09

Opening: Anti-stress diet

Introduction: Current Events ... Heroin and Teens on Long Island - serious ... volume

*Ecclesiastes 1:9* – Nothing new under the sun

- American Civil War - pain killer for amputees - Morphine addicts
- 17<sup>th</sup> Century China - Opium addicts by the thousands
- America of the 1950's - inner city teens deal with addiction to Heroin ... The call of God on a young man named David Wilkerson ... takes on the giant ... Teen Challenge is born ... there is still no govt. program that can approach its success rate for cure

Drug Addiction is a giant whose strangle hold seems unbreakable ... an addict will do ever it takes to get the next fix ... steal from his own mother or children

But God used David Wilkerson as his champion to break the back of heroine giant of the 1950's

Today I want you to have the confidence that the giant, whatever it is, staring you down ... does not have to be faced alone

**Read** *1 Samuel 17: 20-24, 45-50 NIV*

I. Giants are too big to handle alone

Newsday reported Friday ... John Wettland Yankee closer 1996, Mariano Rivera's mentor, was clinically depressed and ready to admit himself for help

Mental or emotional depression is a debilitating giant

Creating feelings of hopelessness ... a pain that is intense – and there is no escape from the suffering because it is internal not external ... the only escape for a long term sufferer from intense depression seems like suicide

Depression is always shrouded in fear ... panic, anxiety, gut wrenching, bone numbing fear.

All of us deal with it at times on different levels.

To escape, people do different things ...

Over eat, get drunk, get high, over work, or have extra marital affairs even though they claim they love their spouse?

All forms of escape ... escape from the pain, the boredom, the fear of having to face how we really are or at least think we are

All of us are in a battle, because life is a battle

Depression is one of many giants ...There is also the

- Feeling of helplessness from a prolonged illness that the doctors just cannot seem to diagnose
- The Cancer that invades home and family
- Loss of income
- Loss of employment
- Divorce
- Violence in your home
- Panic at school
- Fear of change
- Fear of Marriage
- Fear of new opportunities
- Of enrolling in college
- Of volunteering for what you know is worthwhile program
- Or taking on responsibility or a leadership position
- Fear of fear

### **Today Giants are going to fall**

*John 8:32* states for whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

Were not talking Mind over matter here but Faith over fear

Read page 133-134 Cast of Characters by Max Lucado

### **II. Lets focus on David's giant**

Illustration ... Bible is like looking through a window ... at first we only see other people or things

But when things get darker and the light in the room behind you is just right you begin to see your own reflection ... you begin to see yourself

David's Battle Cry "*You come against me with sword, shield and javelin but I come against you ...*"

David looks out of place ... he doesn't belong on a battle field, he is dressed for a sheep pasture holding a staff and shepherd's sling

- Can you imagine the discouraging groans that came from his own people, even the king?
- Don't be ridiculous ...
- You can't do it - you just can't ...
- Your only a kid ... your too young

Then there's your own inner voice ...

- Too inexperienced
- Not enough talent
- Too old ... you know like Moses 80 or Abraham 100 or Methuselah 980 ...

What if God has been saving the best for last? Wouldn't it be sweet if your last years were your best ... you didn't peak too soon!

Back to the list of defeatism ...

- Too many learning problems to overcome
- Not enough resources
- Odds are against you
- No chance

You're defeated before you begin!

You haven't even faced the giant yet ... who is ready to yell threats of certain death at you  
Telling you it's insulting to him for you even to step on to the same field of battle with him!

### III. The Tide Turns

David's troops gave him no chance ... the enemy laughed their heads off when he stepped out on to the battle field

—▶ **Mary Ann Stauffer** quoted in Guide Posts magazine said *"Don't think about what others have. Think about what you have to give to others."*

#### **When did the tide turn?**

For God never ... Goliath was a dead man waiting to be put out of his misery

For David ... the moment he committed his heart to obey God's command

In the Prayer of Jabez, Bruce Wilkinson explains the difference between asking God to help you or to work along side of you as compared to asking God to work through you.

The Difference is your limited resources vs. God's unlimited power surging through you

David recognized the difference read page 135 Cast of Characters

Everyone except David was looking at the hulking giant ... David was looking at something much bigger the God of the armies of Israel ... not **army** but **armies** – hosts of heaven

David with his resources was no match for the giant ... but giant was not match for God's power unleashed through David

Don't focus on the giant ... it's real it's there but faith this morning get the bigger picture look past it and see the greatness of the Lord waiting to work through you to bring it down.

