

Theme: David, anointed with Spirit, was filled with faith to face and conquer the enemies of God, so that the people of God might enjoy the fruits of his victory.

I. Intro - The David by Michelangelo

- A. Our trip to Italy; so many amazing pieces of art
- B. My favorite statue - The David by Michelangelo
- C. Simply unbelievable statue carved from stone
- D. Note the slingshot, hand curled around stone
- E. Right before he fights Goliath - note look on his face!
- F. He is serene, and confident
- G. Captured the greatest moment of this great man
- H. How did this come about: How can David do this?
- I. What does it teach us today?

II. Goliath & Saul

- A. The Philistines prepare for war against Israel
Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. ² Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. ³ The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. ¹ Samuel 17:1–3
 - 1. Philistines are Greeks probably from Crete
 - 2. Biggest enemies for Israel at this time
 - 3. Philistines on one hill, Israel the other, big valley

B. A clash of 'champions'

⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp... ⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹ Samuel 17:4, 8–9

- 1. Goliath is a champion - "one between armies"
- 2. Champions fight to decide the battle - representative combat

C. The problem for Saul - Goliath is a huge warrior!

A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. ⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; ⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. ¹ Samuel 17:4–7

- 1. Hebrew over 9 feet; LXX, Josephus - 6.5 feet
- 2. Either way, he is a huge man for his time (but we have bones of people this large)
- 3. Most detailed description of armor in Scripture
- 4. Unusual but not unknown - and very large
- 5. Key point - awe inspiring sight
- 6. When one considers Goliath's height and his appearance, he appears to be unbeatable. No one would stand a chance against this warrior!

D. Goliath's taunt and Israel's response

Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. 1 Samuel 17:10-11

1. Goliath taunts Saul and Israel and they are terrified
2. When Saul and other Israelites considered Goliath's height and his appearance, their faith melted and fear seized them.
3. The most impressive Israelite was Saul - but he was now bereft of the Spirit and could only quake in fear with the rest of the Israelites.
4. Saul was impressive himself, but apart from the Spirit one can not serve & save the people of God.
5. Israel is not looking at the situation through the eyes of faith in God, but are trying to trust in their own abilities - and they quake in fear.

III. God's Champion: David

A. God's champion is David

On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. ¹² Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse... (vv11-12)

1. Saul is terrified - but now here is David
2. Israel is dismayed - but now here is David
3. David the anointed will come & rescue God's people

B. Understanding David

1. He was anointed by the Spirit to shepherd Israel

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. 1 Samuel 16:13

2. David seemed unimpressive to everyone around him

- a. His family had not even brought him to see Samuel
- b. Eliab still thought he was a silly young boy

When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle." 1 Samuel 17:28

- c. Saul - you can't fight him; you are just a boy!

Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth." (17:33)

- d. Goliath saw a young handsome boy & despised him

He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. 1 Samuel 17:42

- e. When others considered his height and his appearance they did not see God's champion, but just a young man who would be killed by Goliath quickly.

3. David was faithful in the small things

Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. 1 Samuel 17:20

- a. He took responsibility for the flock; didn't just leave
- b. He had been going back and forth to do this (v15)

- c. He did not think this was beneath him and that he should just go to the war - the important stuff.
 - d. A journey of 15 miles - mature, faithful young man
 - e. There are many who want to jump into doing great exploits for God who are not faithful in the small things - so Jesus will NOT use them in great things
 - f. Do not despise the small things - they are God's training camp for what he calls us to in the future!
4. David had been prepared by being a shepherd
But 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, ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." 1 Samuel 17:34–37
- a. As a shepherd David had protected the flock
 - b. This had required fighting lions and bears
 - c. David had been prepared for battle by killing dangerous beasts - faithful in small, prepared for big
 - d. Shepherds often used slingshots to protect flock
 - 1. Picture of slingshot and stones from Lachish ruins
 - 2. Stones weigh half pound; sling up 200 yards!
 - 3. David has become an expert; and then fought lions by hand - he has become battle hardened
 - e. The people see a boy; God sees through to the heart and sees a warrior ready for battle
5. David understands that this is a spiritual battle
³⁶ 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... ⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "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 17:36, 45
- a. Same reaction David had at verse 26 - who is this uncircumcised Philistine?
 - b. David alone sees the true battle - Yahweh & Goliath
 - c. David alone sees that outward physical strength weapons will not determine this conflict - David sees past outer appearance to the heart of the matter
 - d. Goliath has defied Yahweh - and he will be struck down by Yahweh
 - e. We are tempted to view life through outward appearance, but God calls us to see the spiritual reality that lies behind the events seen with the outward eyes.
6. David goes with his own weapons - not Saul's
Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head.³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. (17:38–40)
- a. Saul assumes David needs Saul's battle weapons

- b. Strange picture - Saul puts king's tunic on David!
- c. David realizes they don't "fit" - won't work
- d. David goes into battle without sword, shield, spear
- e. All he has is a shepherd's bag, sling, stones

IV. The Battle

A. Goliath taunts David

He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" ¹ Samuel 17:43-44

- 1. Goliath is fully armed; David seems naked of arms
- 2. If Goliath has giantism, probably bad eyesight
- 3. Goliath taunts David (flyting) - trash talk
- 4. Goliath curses David by his gods and says he will kill him and feed him to the animals

B. David's response to Goliath's taunts

David said to the Philistine, "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. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." ¹ Samuel 17:45-47

- 1. David responds to physical taunts with spiritual truth

- 2. David does not consider height or appearance - he sees through to the heart of the matter
- 3. David sees it is not about superior size or weapons - it is about God's power and honor
- 4. "I will strike you down, cut off your head, and you all will be fed to the animals"

C. The battle: David slays Goliath

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. ¹ Samuel 17:48-49

- 1. Long buildup, short battle! Goliath no match for God
- 2. Goliath falls face down - just like his god Dagon had done (1 Samuel 5:4)
- 3. David rushes to him, and uses Goliath's own sword to cut off his head (like Dagon in 1 Samuel 5:4)
- 4. David hoists the head high - and the Philistines flee!

D. The aftermath: Israel enters David's victory

David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. ⁵² Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. ⁵³ When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp. (17:51-53)

- 1. The Philistines flee and Israel routs them

2. Israel receives the spoils of David's victory

V. Applying the Word of Our Warrior King

A. Do we see David's true greatness?

1. Many want to find 5 stones to slay our Goliath's
2. This misunderstands what we are being taught
3. David conquered because the Spirit was upon him
4. David conquered because he had learned to trust Yahweh in the smaller battles
5. David conquered because He did not look on outward appearances but on the spiritual battle
6. If we learn from David - be filled with the Spirit, be faithful in small things, look past outward appearances and see the spiritual battle
7. We want techniques for quick victory, but God works through long painful processes to transform us into the kind of people He desires
8. Are we learning to see things as God does - and to trust Him?

B. Do we see that Christ has conquered for us?

1. The real point in this passage is Christ
2. He is the "unimpressive One" - Who won the greatest battle ever
3. He is anointed with the Spirit to slay the enemy
4. He is the faithful Shepherd who will deliver us from the mouth of the lion who prowls to destroy us
5. He is the Warrior who has conquered Satan and death and made a public spectacle of them

6. He has routed the enemy of God - and we receive the spoils of victory - we now shout "O Death where is your victory?"

7. Look to Him today - He is our Victorious Shepherd Warrior King!

C. Prayer to Christ our Great Shepherd Warrior King

The Shepherd Warrior

1 Samuel 17

April 10, 2016

Prayer

Hebrews 2:14-15; Revelation 1:18

biblical characters; faith; salvation and deliverance Holy Spirit; false teaching and heresy

May Christ, Who by his death and resurrection has destroyed the Devil's power and now holds the keys of death and hell -¹⁵ may He free you from all enemies, so that you might live in the blessings of the children of God. Hebrews 2:14-15, Revelation 1:18

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" ⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "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. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." 1 Samuel 17:41-47