

1 Sam 17**Introduction:**

- When we read the story of David and Goliath it is tempting to make David the lead actor in the account and ascribe to him greatness. Don't get me wrong, David is courageous. David is great because of what he does. David, having been anointed by Samuel the prophet, and now the hero of our passage, truly deserves to be Israel's next king.
 - But this is not the primary emphasis of our text.
 - The primary point of the chapter 17, and my message this morning is on how great God is!
 - To often God's greatness gets lost in the telling of this story.
 - For you young parents/grandparents, in telling the story make sure God is great and that is what your children remember.
- *"This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, **that** all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear.*

1 Sam 17:46-47.

- This is the divine purpose for Goliath's defeat at the hand of David, that we would know God!
- *It is this knowledge that empowers David to do vs 48, "When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine."* (1 Samuel 17:48, ESV)
- This story is about God, about His name, His glory, His honor, His power!

I. The Gall Of Goliath!

- A. The word gall means to be insolent or insulting. It can be bitterness of feeling or something bitter to endure. Goliath was a giant of a warrior that was so insulting of them and their God that for forty days Israel bitterly endured his taunting and insults. Morning and evening.
 1. It is what those who do not believe in God do to those who do believe.
 2. Nothing has changed. Only the faces of the participants. My God is still being insulted by non-believers and at times, believers too.
- B. Goliath means to uncover, to remove, to cause to go into exile. Goliath was there to uncover the armies of Israel like sin uncovered Adam and Eve to their shame and sent them into exile, captivity.
 1. He did this by defying the armies of Israel. He would come out and totally disregard the armies of Israel as he confronted them.
 2. To defy is to – reproach, cast blame, scorn, to disgrace or dishonor. It is the opposite of honor. He cursed David by his Gods. vs.43

3. Goliath was big, tall, muscle bound. He was wearing some of the latest military tech on the battle field. And a terrifying sight to behold.
4. When you look at Goliath you get the feeling that this guy cannot be beaten in battle
- C. What Goliath did to Israel, insults Israel on three levels: Lexham Bible Dictionary. Goliath, Beau Abernathy.
 1. The God level – Goliath threatens them with becoming slaves of the Philistines.
 2. Community level – he demoralize their leader Saul and causes Israelites to lose confidence and flee.
 3. Militarily level – He reduced the conflict between the Israelites and Philistines to a single combat. Everything is wagered on warrior who far outshines any other warrior from either side.
- D. This is exactly what the devil is still doing to people today. He presents himself bigger, meaner, and more powerful than his adversary the church. His expressions are to strike fear into the ranks of the church to cause us to retreat.
 1. This demoralizes you if you listen and entertain what he is speaking.
 2. It fills you fear if you forget who you are or do not know who you are in Christ.
 3. 17:11 they were dismayed (broken, no will to fight)

II. The Defiance of David

- A. Let's start with David by looking at: *"Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah."* (1 Samuel 16:13, ESV)
 1. When he was anointed to be King of Israel, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him!
 2. And at the same time the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul. 17:1.
 3. Those who know their God shall be strong and carry out exploits. Dan 11:32 God desires and is looking for a Spirit filled people! If you want to crush your Goliaths in life you are going to need the Holy Spirit!
- B. Who is David in this moment?
 1. How he appears:
 - a) He is a boy, to both Saul and to Goliath.
 - b) He is not a warrior.
 - c) He is not armored up. Is not used to fighting with armor on.
 - d) He does not carry a sword but a staff
 - e) He sounds more like a lad from Gideons army.
 2. How he actually is:
 - a) He knows who he is. I have killed lions, and bears and will kill this giant. vs. 36
 - b) He was confident because of his faith and experience in walking with God. vs. 36
 - c) He knew he was in covenant with God! vs 26 *"Who is this uncircumcised*

Philistine?" He also knew that Goliath was outside of covenant with God.

- C. David defies everything that the Israelites had come to believe about Goliath.
 - 1. What are you defying today that everyone else seems to be embracing?
 - 2. David is filled with the Holy Spirit, in covenant with God, knows who he is and whose he is and is convinced his assignment for the day is to take out Goliath! No wonder he is confident.

III. The Greatness of God!

- A. The whole purpose of chapter 17 is hung in this passage. That You may know there is a God in Israel! *"**that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear.*** 1 Sam 17:46-47
 - 1. To Israel He says: *"I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and **you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.**"* (Exodus 6:7, ESV)
 - 2. Moses to Pharaoh: *"Thus says the Lord, **By this you shall know that I am the Lord: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood.**"* (Exodus 7:17, ESV)
 - 3. God to Moses: *"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"* (Exodus 16:12, ESV)
 - 4. God to Ezekiel and the people of Israel: *"and keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God."* (Ezekiel 20:20, ESV)
- B. Here is Gods pattern:
 - 1. He takes the smallest...the underdogs of life and choose to show himself strong in them. *"It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."* (Deuteronomy 7:7,8, ESV)
 - 2. He takes the weakest of whom all the odds are stacked against them...to prove He is God. Ie. Gideon
 - 3. He takes the least likely: Gideon, Moses, David, you!
 - 4. He takes the smallest, weakest and least likely to show that it is not with mans power that wrongs are made right but with God's greatness demonstrated through weak vessels so that all know there is a Great God in the land.
- C. *"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the*

power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:9, ESV) My power is made perfect in weakness! Why? So that you may know and others may know that there is a great God in the land, in your life, in your family.

Conclusion:

- David's victory inspires confidence to all who are around him, the whole of Israel rises to rout the Philistines. Your victories inspire others to press on!
- What are you running to when you run to the battle? Why are you running to the battle? To risk a step of faith to demonstrate His greatness.
- It is not the greatness of the people that God uses that we should think upon, but the greatness of our God who can achieve great things through insignificant people.
- Ps 18:29-42 I stormed my adversaries and God helped me.
 - "I love the way David applies the analogy of his previous victories over the wild beasts through the strength God supplies with his present conflict with Goliath"
 - Saul to David: **"Go! The Lord will be with you"** (17:37).
 - Saul sees for the first time on this mountain side that God is central in this matter.
 - He prays God's blessing upon David as he goes forth to challenge Goliath. Somehow, Saul seems to have enough faith to trust that God will work through David to save Israel.
- When you speak of the greatness of David against Goliath—Don't forget to tell of the greatness of God.