

## Great Stories of the Bible – 1/9/22

### David The Lion Slayer/Giant Killer

**TEXT- 1 Sa 17:20-40** *And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him;*

**INTRO – More is written about David than any other person in the Old Testament. Great people like Moses had 40 chapters, Abraham - 14, Joseph – 13 but David had 66 chapters about his life. He wrote many of the lovely psalms, he was praised as a warrior, he was the best king that Israel ever had and of course, his name is forever associated with our Lord Jesus, the son of David! Great victories he had over his enemies, beginning with Goliath the giant.**

Are you a giant slayer? Have you ever faced a giant in your life? What was it? How did you kill that giant?

All of these things represent the giant that lives within that ultimately we will have to slay if we wish to reach our full potential and be successful.

#### Israel's Reaction to the Giant

**1. They focused only on the giant.** We don't see them praying. We don't see them calling upon the LORD. No, they simply focused on their problem.

**2. They were frozen by fear.**

*Illustration— A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate window.*

*For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the shaking driver said, "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me..." The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly."*

*The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault, today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years..."*

**3. They completely lost heart.**

**"Your servant killed both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."** David said moreover, **"The Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."** [1Sa 17:36,37]

#### I. David's Battles Before Goliath

Before the encounter with the Philistine he fought a battle which cost him far more thought, prudence, and patience. The battle with his brothers and with King Saul

**A. Eliab** thought David was more fit among lambs than warriors David answered with a few soft words, and then turned away. He did not continue to argue, he restrained himself, The man who restrains his spirit is greater than the soldier who takes a city. He gently replies where others might have been angry, and then so wisely turns aside from a debate.

**B. Next, he is brought before Saul**, and David enters upon a contest with a king, to whom he felt loyal respect, to whom David looked up with great reverence. When King Saul said to him, *"You are not able to fight with this Philistine, for you are only a youth and he a man of war from his youth,"* **David said to Saul**, *"Let no man's heart fail because of him?"*

He did not say, *"Do not let your heart fail you";*

He begins, *"Your servant kept his father's sheep";* he calls himself a servant of the king, and does not hesitate to admit that he is only a shepherd who had no flock of his own, but served under his father.

**Saul said**, *"You are not able to meet this Philistine";* but David replied, *"Your servant killed both the lion and the bear."*

**He placed facts against mere opinions.**

He did not quote Scripture to the king,

His arguments overcame the opposition of Saul,

Saul not only commissioned him to go and fight the Philistine, saying, *"Go, and the Lord be with you";* but he actually clothed him in his royal armour, A little faith in David was kindled in Saul's heart, and he was willing to trust his armour in his hands.

**Psa 144:1** *Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:*

#### • David's Recollections

**1Sa 17:34-36** *And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.*

**Some saints have very short memories. It has been well said that we write our benefits in dust and our injuries in marble, and it is equally true that we generally inscribe our afflictions upon brass, while the records of the deliverances of God are written in water.**

What did David remember?

- \* Whatever his present trial might be, *he had been tried before,*
- \* He had encountered that danger in the course of his duty, when he

was in his proper place, and engaged in his lawful calling, and he had learned by it that the path of duty is not without its difficulties and perils.

\* *he had been tried frequently.* He had been not only attacked by a lion, but also by a bear. He had been tried in different ways, for lions and bears

\* David remembered that his trials had been of different kinds, and that in each case the battle had been hard.

We can speak of wounds and ugly scratches, of which we wear the scars. Many and furious have been our adversaries, yet we have been upheld until now by Jesus, the Captain of our salvation. Why, then, should we fear concerning *the present fiery trial, as though some strange thing had happened to us?*

Is it a Philistine this time? Well, it was a lion before, and a bear on another occasion: it is only a little change of the same constant trial of our faith, and therefore let us not shrink from the conflict.

\* David remembered that *he had risked all in the line of duty.* He was sent to take care of the sheep and the lambs, and he did so.

He had put his own life in jeopardy for the poor defenseless lamb.

Can you remember, when you took no thought as to what you should lose if you followed Christ, and did not care if it cost you your life?

Blessed recklessness! Do you remember those early days when you could cheerfully have gone to prison and to death for Christ's sake?

\* Next he remembered that *he had gone alone.*

Look back at that courageous hour, you ought to be all the stronger for having been compelled to walk alone.

\* David also remembered that on that occasion when he struck the lion and the bear *he had nothing visible to rely on, but simply trusted God.*

*“My soul shall make her boast in the Lord*

#### • **David's Reasonings**

David believed “The case of this Philistine is a parallel one to that of the lion. If I act in the same manner by faith in God with this giant as I did with the lion, God is the same, and therefore the result will be the same.”

If the Lord impels you to do anything for him do not ask *me*, do not ask my fellow church officers, but go and do it. If God has helped you in the past, draw a parallel, and argue from it that he will help you in the present.

## **II. David's Battle With Goliath**

**A. David was prepared for the battle with Goliath**

**B. David trusted God for the victory**

**C. The Cause was greater than his own comfort and safety**

**D. David wrought a great victory for the Lord**

**CONCL – Unconverted people cannot draw courage from your past. You must first be saved.**