

## Message #41

## I Samuel 17:51-58

Whether it is a sports team, an educational institution, a church or even a nation, there is no question that one man can bring amazing strength and success to the operation. Michael Jordan did that with the Chicago Bulls. Lewis Sperry Chafer did that with Dallas Theological Seminary. Charles Spurgeon did that with Metropolitan Tabernacle.

David did that with Israel. David turned the entire nation Israel around.

When one person is right with God and is being used by God, he will make a difference to everyone. That point is certainly seen from the life of David.

David brought to Israel something Saul could never bring to Israel. He brought faith in God back to Israel. As a result, he brought confidence, strength, and in the end, he brought victory.

Israel was deathly afraid of the Philistines until David went out and dropped Goliath. They would dress up and go out on their side of the mountain for forty days and nights too afraid to fight.

But when David beat Goliath, all of a sudden, the Israelites had momentum. What they saw David do was something that affected them all. They had never seen anything like this. **Verse 50** says David killed Goliath without a sword in his hand. He did it with a sling shot and a stone.

The shot David made with that sling and stone was amazing. The average size of a forehead is 5 inches by 2-3 inches from the eyebrows to the hairline. Take a 3 by 5 card and see if you can make that shot running at a target. David ran straight at Goliath and let a rock fly and it hit him square in the forehead and brought him down. It was an amazing shot.

It somewhat reminds me of the random shot of an arrow that hit right between two pieces of armor and killed Ahab (II Chron. 18:33). But the guy who shot that arrow wasn't even aiming. David was aiming and that made this shot even more amazing. God had given David victory and Israel knew it because they watched it. They saw David do this.

Israel sensed God's hand was on David and that sparked the rest of them to get going for God.

There is an amazing lesson to see here:

**THE BELIEVER WHO IS FAITHFUL TO THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD AND IS WILLING TO FIGHT FOR GOD, WILL MAKE AN INCREDIBLE IMPACT ON OTHERS AND WILL INFLUENCE THEM TO EXPERIENCE VICTORY IN THEIR OWN LIVES.**

One faithful man or woman can make a huge impact on others. Those who purpose to love God and His word and defend it and stand for it will make an impact on others.

They will make a difference. They will bring the blessings of God to the organization. People will draw strength from them and they will move forward for God.

That was the kind of impact David made on Israel. He was a teenager who believed God and by faith went out and fought for God and God gave him an incredible victory.

Now this passage is stirring and stimulating. There are **four narrative facts** that are brought out:

**NARRATIVE FACT #1** – David’s victory over Goliath gave confidence to God’s people.  
**17:51-52**

**When the Philistines saw what David did to Goliath, they fled (17:51). When Israel saw what David did to Goliath, they fought (17:52).**

As Robert Bergen said, the entire nation Israel was “energized” (*I & II Samuel*, p. 197).

For the first time in a long time, Israel was on the offensive and not the defensive. The heroic exploits of David stimulated this entire nation to pursue victory. All of a sudden they began to realize, God is on our side.

The Israelites from Israel and Judah stood up and shouted when they saw the victory of David, and they came off the side of their hill and charged down into the valley and chased the Philistines up the valley north toward Ekron and east toward Gath. Gath and Ekron were two of the five key Philistine cities.

They killed so many Philistines that bodies covered the route from the valley to some of the key cities—Shaaraim, Gath and Ekron.

What an amazing turn around. Just a few minutes earlier, these guys were so afraid that when Goliath started yelling from the bottom of the valley, the Israelites, who weren’t even in close proximity to him, were so afraid that they ran back from the edge and ledge of the hill (17:23-24).

Now, because of what just happened to Goliath, they are running straight down into the valley chasing and attacking the Philistines. What made the difference here? One faithful man of God, David, who was willing to lay it all on the line for God, was the reason for this change. One teenager said, “I will stand up and fight for what is right.”

When we were in Indiana, there was a teenager who wanted to pray in school and he was told he could not pray. So he stood outside and prayed. Pretty soon, others joined him and they prayed too. As a result, the school gave them a room where they could pray. One teenager took a stand and it affected others.

It is interesting that David does not command the Israelites to do this. He does not motion for them to do this. He does not challenge them to run down into the valley and start fighting. They were just prompted by God to do this because of his strength.

One person who believes God's word and takes a stand for God's word will make a difference in the lives of others. They were drawing strength and courage from him. They were doing something they had never done before. This occurred because one man took a stand for God.

**NARRATIVE FACT #2** – David's victory over Goliath brought increase to God's people.  
**17:53**

David's faithfulness brought financial increase to Israel, which was all part of the blessings of God. **David is a type of Messiah who will bring the physical blessings to Israel.**

Because Israel was experiencing great victory, she was able to collect many new things. They entered a new level of prosperity. As they were chasing the Philistines, they left behind many things which became the property of Israel.

The Philistines left their camps and everything in their camps. There would have been tents and weapons and animals and food and money and every bit of this became the property of Israel.

This must have been a great shot in the arm because probably the supplies for Israel were running low. We may recall that David's initial assignment was to take food to his brothers and the commander. But this was all changed in a moment.

There is no doubt that God does give increase when one is faithful to God. God will always honor those who honor Him. A faithful believer in a business will bring the blessings of God to the business. A faithful believer in leadership will bring the blessings of God to the organization.

When one person is faithful to God and His word, it can bring great blessings and benefits to the entire operation. There is a sanctifying power that God gives to the entire operation, which leads to more of His blessings.

The greatest illustration of this is the instant and dramatic change that occurs at Calvary. Jesus Christ the One God/man died on the cross and when one believes on Him, he instantly has access to the entire wealth of God.

**NARRATIVE FACT #3** – David's victory over Goliath brought a victorious David to Jerusalem. **17:54**

This verse has brought some very interesting controversy to this narrative. Jerusalem, at the time of these events, was not yet an important religious and political center. In fact, at the time David did this, Jerusalem was not under the control of Israel. Fact is we will not hear of Jerusalem again until II Samuel 5.

Part of the city was apparently controlled by the Israelites (Josh. 15:63; Judges 1:8) and a major part of the city was controlled by the Jebusites (II Sam. 5:6). The controversial matter surrounds the question of why did David go to Jerusalem?

**Verse 54** says that David brought Goliath's head there. It was common to display an enemy's head at a key place of worship. In fact, this is what the Philistines will do with Saul's head when he dies (I Chron. 10:10).

So the real debated question is why did David take Goliath's head to Jerusalem? It can't be because there was a good taxidermist in Jerusalem who could make a good wall mount out of the head of Goliath.

It could be that David was going to the tabernacle/tent located at Nob, near Jerusalem. Nob was a priestly city near Jerusalem and it was in Nob where David dropped off Goliath's weapons (I Sam. 21:1, 8-9).

It is also possible that David is putting the Jebusites on notice that this city will become the key city of God and this head of Goliath is a statement that God will accomplish His will in this matter.

If you were in Jerusalem and David came and held up Goliath's head because he just killed him, not too many would want to go against him. In fact, the first city David will attack, when he is King several years later, will be Jerusalem (II Sam. 5:6).

Even though David brought Goliath's head to Jerusalem, he put Goliath's weapons in his tent (**v. 54**). David would not take Saul's armor into battle, but he did keep Goliath's after the battle.

The next time we read of the sword of Goliath, it will be in the sanctuary of Nob (I Sam. 21:9). So it may be that David kept it in his tent for a while and then eventually it ended up in Nob. It may be that while David was on the run from Saul, the sword was taken there for safe keeping because when David goes to the sanctuary later, he does not seem to know it is there.

**NARRATIVE FACT #4** – David's victory over Goliath brought him to the forefront of the leadership of Israel. **17:55-58**

Now Saul was watching all of this happen. Apparently some time had elapsed between the actual fight with Goliath and this episode.

According to **verse 55**, Saul watched David go out and fight Goliath and he asked Abner, the commander of the army and his cousin, whose son was David. One thing is clear from **verse 55** and that is Saul is not a stable man of mind. Many have speculated that Saul's loss of memory is a clear indicator that he is mentally unstable.

Saul knew David as his court musician (I Sam. 16:18-23), but apparently he forgot who his father was. He needed this information to properly reward his family.

The Hebrew word “young man” (naar) used in **verses 55 and 58** is the same. It is a word that speaks of a boy or very young man (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 555).

But in **verse 56**, there is a very rare Hebrew word used for “young man” or “youth.”

The word used in **verse 56** is “halem” which speaks of a full-grown young man who has strength and vigor and is at a marriageable age (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 634).

When David first went to fight Goliath, he was viewed by Saul as just a boy (naar). But after he beat Goliath, Saul views him as a heroic young man but then he reverts back again to seeing him as a boy.

According to **verse 57**, Abner took David in before Saul and David had Goliath’s head in his hand.

But when David is standing before Saul with Goliath’s head in his hand, Saul once again views him as a boy and that is how he addresses him in **verse 58**.

So this is somewhat humiliating for David. Saul asks David who his father was and David said I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

Saul is beginning to see David in a new way. The Davidic line is being established right here and right now. It would be this very line that would bring the ultimate victor into the world.