

1  **ONLY A BOY NAMED DAVID**

1 Samuel 17

2  **WARRIORS AND POETS**

- Warriors and Poets: A verse-by-verse study through the Unified Kingdom period of Israel and Judah.
- Although Saul is still officially king of Israel, God has taken His Spirit from Saul and given it to David, his anointed.
- Today's lesson continues our look at one of the most iconic stories in the Bible. Let us pray that we may look upon it with fresh eyes.

3  **A CLASH OF CULTURES**

- The Philistines have come to battle against Israel, as a reprisal against the Israelite's previous incursions under Saul.
- This battle is more than simply a battle between two armies: it is a clash between two cultures:
 - The sophisticated pagan Philistines
 - The fledgling Israelite nation, already led by a rebellious king

4  **GOLIATH**

- 1) An enormous enemy
 - Goliath was significantly larger and more powerful than anyone the Israelites would have ever seen
- 2) An invincible enemy
 - Goliath's armor alone weighed an impressive 125 lbs. His spear would have been unstoppable.
- 3) A mocking enemy
 - Goliath mocked the Israelites, calling them slaves of Saul.

5  **GOLIATH**

- 4) A demoralizing enemy
 - Confronted with an impossible foe, Israel has lost the very will to fight.
- 5) A coercive enemy
 - Goliath set the terms of the battle and victory – terms by which he never intended to abide.

6  **GOLIATH**

- 6) A defiant enemy
 - Goliath defied not just the army of Israel – but the God of Israel.
- 7) A terrifying enemy
 - Goliath had the entire army of Israel is not just demoralized – they are trembling with fear.

7  **DAVID**

- 1) An anointed hero
 - David has been anointed by God to be His king. As part of this, God's spirit has come to rest upon David.
- 2) A diligent hero
 - David was not just sitting around waiting for the throne to be vacated. He is diligently serving both his father and the current king, trusting in God's leading and timing.

8 ■ **DAVID**

- 3) A passionate hero
 - Filled with God’s spirit, David is jealous for God’s glory when he hears Goliath mocking God and Israel.
 - Unlike Saul, his brothers, and the rest of the men of Israel, he is anxious to do something about the problem.

9 ■ **4) AN OPPORTUNISTIC HERO**

- *Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?" And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before. (1 Sam 17:28-30)*

10 ■ **4) AN OPPORTUNISTIC HERO**

- *When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." (1 Sam 17:31-32).*

11 ■ **4) AN OPPORTUNISTIC HERO**

- Where everyone else sees obstacles (Goliath’s size, his armor, his weapons), David sees an opportunity for victory and for God to get the glory.
- Even David’s brother Eliab can only see the obstacles. He takes out his frustrations on David.
- David’s reaction: What is it this time?

12 ■ **4) AN OPPORTUNISTIC HERO**

- This difference in character sheds important light on why God rejected David’s other brothers. Not only is Eliab an angry man (but David will struggle with anger too), he is limited by his perspective.
- For David’s part, he sees challenges as opportunities for victory.

13 ■ **5) A CONFIDENT HERO**

- *And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. (1 Sam 17:33-35)*

14 ■ **5) A CONFIDENT HERO**

- *Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" (1 Sam 17:36-37)*

15 ■ **5) A CONFIDENT HERO**

- David declares to Saul that God will give him the same kind of victory over Goliath that he has previously given him over the lion and the bear.
- David has learned how God works – how God can give him victory over his enemies – from

the ways that God has worked in his life in the past.

16 **5) A CONFIDENT HERO**

- The purpose of incremental release should be to develop new opportunities by building on the ways that God has worked in your past.
 - God used David’s time as a shepherd both to prepare him for his confrontation with Goliath, and to groom him to shepherd God’s people.
- This is something that should start long before the teenage years or the beginning of the adult working career.

17 **6) A PRUDENT HERO**

- *Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. (1 Sam 17:38-40)*

18 **6) A PRUDENT HERO**

- It is just as important (and possibly more important) to know your limitations as it is to know your strengths.
- David declines the use of Saul’s armor because he has not “tested” it – because he has never worn it or used it and he needs to focus on his competencies for the battle to come.

19 **6) A PRUDENT HERO**

- David chooses instead the sling – a weapon with which he is intimately familiar.
- It is important to realize that the sling was not a slingshot, it was not the weapon of a child.
- In fact, slings were extremely effective and deadly ranged weapons of the ancient world, and required a high degree of precision and expertise to use effectively.

20 **THE SLING**

- The sling is a projectile weapon typically used to throw a blunt object, such as a stone, or a metal “sling-bullet” – a heavy sphere made of metal.
- The sling had a longer range than the arrow or the javelin, and could be made from a number of common materials. As such, it was extremely common throughout the ancient world.

21 **THE SLING**

- A properly-aimed sling has an effective range of over 400 meters.
- Slings are mentioned elsewhere in Scripture as formidable men of war (Judges 20:16).
- The Persian Empire was famous for their use of slingers against the Greeks.

22 **THE SLING**

- A rock or sling-bullet hurled from a sling would impact with enough concussive force to transfer shock through a helmet or body armor.
- The preferred ammunition for the sling, when no lead was available, was smooth stones from a riverbed. These would have been rounded from the flow of water and thus would fly smoothly and predictably.

23 **7) A VICTORIOUS HERO**

- *And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a*

youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." (1 Sam 17:41-44)

24 **7) A VICTORIOUS HERO**

- *Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 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, (1 Sam 17:45-46)*

25 **7) A VICTORIOUS HERO**

- *and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand." (1 Sam 17:47)*
- David combats a lie with the truth.
- The lie: That you are helpless, and so is your God.
- The truth: That our God is victorious, and He is jealous for His name.

26 **7) A VICTORIOUS HERO**

- *When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. (1 Sam 17:48-49).*

27 **7) A VICTORIOUS HERO**

- *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. (1 Sam 17:50-51)*

28 **7) A VICTORIOUS HERO**

- The story of David's victory over Goliath is recounted in verses 38-51.
- Despite Goliath's attempts to frighten him and dishearten him as he has done to the rest of the army of Israel, David remains resolute.
- He uses a stone from his sling and fells Goliath, and then while the Philistine champion is stunned, cuts off his head with his own sword.

29 **THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S**

- In the conflict of culture, ultimately the battle belongs to the Lord. We can never be smart enough, diligent enough, or entrepreneurial enough to be victorious without God's help.
- By being faithful with the flock of sheep with which God is entrusting us now, we earn greater responsibility later.
- The lions and bears we face now are here to prepare us for greater battles we may someday fight.

30 **THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S**

- To defeat the giant we must counter his lies with the truth: Our God is victorious, and He is jealous for His name.
- "...the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand." - David