

## ***David & Goliath - 1 Samuel 17*** **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

### **Notes from the Sermon**

This week we pause to take a look at one of the most famous and beloved stories in the Bible. David & Goliath is often used in the sports world when one team is an significant favorite, yet the overwhelming underdog somehow wins and takes down the “giant”. We also see the story used in pop-culture and the church to speak of facing ones giants. The story, they say, shows us that if we have faith and approach life with courage, we like David, can attack and take down the giants in our lives. With God on our side we never lose. While there might be some truth in this, our challenge this week is to show that this is not really the point of the story. Actually, when we read the story, we probably should not identify with David, rather, we should find ourselves in a different group of people, the Israelites who find themselves in a situation created by themselves and which they cannot remedy, facing an enemy who cannot be defeated and therefore leaves them in fear and shame.

The reason we often land on interpretations of stories making the main human character the hero and then placing ourselves in the place of the hero is really connected to how we as Westerners tend to read all texts. We read Bible stories a bit like Aesop’s fables, seeking to find the hero of the story, identify character traits in the hero that inspire, and then seek ways to model our lives after the hero. Often we see them as a series of random stories to be applied. But the Bible does not present these stories in this way, rather the individual stories are part of the whole of Scripture telling one whole story. God is the hero, His redemption and love for His people is the central theme, and His glory and fame is always the purpose. To be honest, this story was really never about David to begin with.

This approach to reading the Bible is called Biblical Theology. Biblical Theology teaches us to read all of Scripture as one great story as God in and over time reveals Himself to and through His people. This revelation is progressive, as God speaks and acts in history, and the story culminates in the coming of Jesus Christ. Every passage, every story, every poem, every prophecy points us in this direction, preparing the reader for the climax of the story in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rather than seeking moral tales and finding myself in the Bible, Biblical theology teaches us to figure out how the story or text points to, picture, prophecy of, or proclaim the glory of God and His saving work made known truly and fully in Jesus. When we read the story of David and Goliath, I would argue correctly, through the lense of Biblical Theology the story takes on a completely different flavor.

First of all, the situation was brought on by the Israelites themselves. At the beginning of the books of Joshua and Judges they were commanded by Yahweh (the covenant name for God in the Old Testament) to drive the nations out of the Promised Land. But rather than obeying God, His people chose to live among these people, embracing their gods and spiritualities, falling headlong into idolatry. Rather than repenting, the people clamored for a human king. This is what the other nations had, so God gave them their wishes, and Saul became king. Yet, he too followed the same trajectory, disobeying God’s clear commands and building a kingdom for himself. So God removed His glory from Saul, but also chose a king for himself, the person who replace Saul. The person “anointed” to be the next king was David. At the time he was no more than a middle school aged youth who served as a shepherd in the town of Bethlehem. This story is in 1 Samuel 16, meaning this took place before our current story. David would be the king who most deeply showed Israel the glory of God’s Kingdom on earth, serving the One True and Living God faithfully as the human king. But that comes later.

For now, the story takes on a different shape when you see David as the anointed shepherd king who enters the field of battle, standing as the sole human representative sent

by God to fight. He faces the Philistine giant, who is dressed like a snake in scales. The Israelites have spent 40 days believing that they were going to either be killed by Goliath and the Philistines or become slaves along with their whole families. Even the king Saul is filled with fear and cowardice. But this middle school aged shepherd king steps on the field of battle and fights for them, defeating the enemy by, did you notice, crushing his head. As a result, in an instance, the whole story turns. Israel is the victory, the Philistines are driven back to their towns, most of the soldiers dying along the way. And Israel gets all the plunder from the camp. Now pause and think of all the parallels between this story and Jesus. He came as the Good Shepherd who stepped into the field of battle standing against the snake from the Garden of Eden. Jesus attacks the enemies that leave us cowering and in slavery, Satan, sin, death, hell and the grave. And Jesus fights these alone as His closest disciples run and cower in fear. The Shepherd King is crucified, yet three days later, in an instance, He rose from the dead, victorious. And His people gain the victory and get the plunder.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Kings 22	1 Thessa- lonians 1	1 Thessa- lonians 2	1 Thessa- lonians 3	1 Thessa- lonians 4	1 Thessa- lonians 5	2 Thessa- lonians 1

Reading from this past week’s sermon: 1 Samuel 17  
 Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Daniel 7

**Family Worship**

Song - *Shout to the Lord*

<https://youtu.be/4OwtuOiD2Cg?si=a6tt1-c1cT9TYi7B>

Gospel Project

Unit: Jesus the Teacher

Story: Jesus Forgives and Heals

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Answer: Jesus taught about God and His Kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Scripture: Matthew 9

New City Catechism

Question 26: What else does Christ’s death redeem?

Answer: Every part of fallen creation.

Verse: Colossians 1:19-20

1 Samuel 17

- Are you familiar with this story? What is your favorite part of the story of David & Goliath?
- According to David himself, who is the rescuer of Israel and defeater of Goliath? Why David’s quote in battle important for our understanding of the story?
- What are some ways David in this story points to and pictures Jesus?
- How does this story show us the beauty of the Gospel when we face our fears, enemies, and giants in life?

Prayer

\*Pray that we would know Jesus as the true hero of every story, especially our own.

\*Pray for the city of Washington, our people who live there, and for God’s mission in the city.