

**Message #39****I Samuel 17:24-39**

There is a very important lesson to learn from the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ started to teach His disciples that He needed to go into Jerusalem and He would suffer and die and then be raised up on the third day. Well Peter said to Jesus we will never let that happen to you. In fact, Peter was rebuking Jesus. Jesus said, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me: for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s” (Matt. 16:21-23).

This is an important principle that all of God’s people need to know and that is if you are doing exactly what God wants you to do, Satan will see to it that certain people and certain circumstances will try to prevent you and stop you from doing God’s will.

Some of the people who may try to stop it may be members of your own family or church. When you are moving forward for God and are really growing, there will be those who will try to stop it. But if you stay focused and you refuse to get sidetracked, you will get the victory.

David was a 15-17 year old teenager when this happened. His dad had given him a job to do—go and take some food to your brothers and check up on them (17:17-18). He had to run about 15 miles and he got up early and did what his father requested, in complete obedience to what his father asked him to do. God sovereignly controlled the time when David arrived and it turned out to be the exact moment when Goliath was verbally intimidating Israel.

God’s plan was to have David drop this big-mouthed gigantic goon. This was all the perfect timing and will of God. But before David could complete the will of God, there were several roadblocks that tried to stop him.

There is a lesson to learn here:

**WHEN YOU ARE TRULY DOING EXACTLY WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO, SATAN WILL SEE TO IT THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE AND EVENTS TRY TO PREVENT YOU FROM ACCOMPLISHING GOD’S WILL.**

There will be many negative roadblocks thrown in your way. If ever you want to see this in living color, all you have to do is look at all of the negatives David faced before he could fight Goliath, which was the will of God.

**Verses 23-27** set the historical stage for this epoch moment. There are five observations we want to make:

**(Observation #1)** - David heard Goliath challenging Israel and mocking **God**. **17:8-10, 23**

**(Observation #2)** - David saw all the men of Israel running and afraid. **17:24**

**(Observation #3)** - David hears the men verbally discussing the situation. **17:25**

God was sovereign in permitting David to overhear this and he learned some facts:

**Fact #1** - Goliath is a man who defies Israel. **17:25a**

**Fact #2** - The man who kills Goliath will be given great remuneration from the king. **17:25b**

1. He will receive great wealth.
2. He will receive the king's daughter in marriage.
3. His family will be free—free from taxation and military service.

Saul would not fight Goliath himself, but he would make things lucrative for one who dared to fight him.

**(Observation #4)** - David wants to specifically know what will happen to the one who kills Goliath. **17:26**

Now when David overheard the discussion, he wanted to verify facts. He was not just accepting the talk of a bunch of guys who were sitting around giving their military assessment. He wanted to know what Saul had actually decreed.

David is not motivated solely by financial reward, but he did want to know what the actual honor would be. Remember Samuel had told him that he would be the next king, so David is verifying things related to that.

**David is motivated by the fact that Goliath was a reproach to Israel and was arrogantly taunting the armies of the living God.** That is what made David mad. This is the point: God is a living God in battles, not a dead God. David was a man after God's own heart and he believed that.

**(Observation #5)** - David learns unanimously from the people that what he heard was true and that would be the remuneration for the one who killed Goliath. **17:27**

It certainly is not unscriptural to know what the pay is before you undertake the job. It is not wrong to understand the remuneration before you go into the war or battle.

It is not wrong for us to realize that our works will be judged and if we are faithful we will earn rewards (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 3:11-15; 4:2, 5; 9:24-25; Col. 3:23-25; Rev. 22:12).

David was not looking for this, but he found himself faced with this situation and God sovereignly put him here for this very moment.

But because this is God's timing and God's will, we may expect Satan will try to stop it, which he does.

As soon as David learned this and decided to do something about this, **two potential negative roadblocks** were thrown in his way:

**POTENTIAL NEGATIVE ROADBLOCK #1 – David is discouraged by his own brother.**

**17:28-30**

We may recall that when Samuel first saw Eliab, he thought he would be the next king of Israel (I Sam. 16:6). This text, in part, shows why he wasn't God's choice.

Eliab, David's oldest brother, overheard David talking to the people and inquiring about the remuneration. **Verse 28** says that Eliab's "anger burned against David." This was a jealous type of anger. Eliab is not angry at Goliath, who is mocking God; he is angry at his brother, David, who is thinking about putting a stop to it. David is angered by Goliath and Eliab is angry at David.

Eliab is jealous because he is the oldest and isn't doing a thing about Goliath, and David is the youngest and was about to put a stop to him. Furthermore, Eliab the oldest was not anointed to become the next king by Samuel, David the youngest was.

When you are on track in doing God's will, some of your biggest disappointments will come from those close to you. It may be a parent, a mate, a sibling or a son or daughter. They will not only let you down, they will actually try to prevent you from doing God's will.

Now what Eliab does is start falsely accusing David by making up ridiculous things. For most people this would have been so discouraging that you would walk away:

**Discouragement Allegation #1 - He questions David's motives for coming. 17:28a**

The reason David came was because his father wanted him to take some food to his brothers and see how they were doing. That is the truth.

Eliab insinuates there was a more sinister motive. He insinuates that David had an ulterior motive for being there. Truth is David is there because God wants him there and he is obeying what his father told him to do.

Ever had that happen? You are trying to do something for God and someone starts questioning your motives?

**Discouragement Allegation #2 - He alleges David has neglected his responsibilities. 17:28b**

Eliab alleges that David had just abandoned his sheep out in the wilderness so he could go to the battlefield. Truth is David left his flock with a keeper (17:20). This is a Satanic lie.

**Discouragement Allegation #3 - He alleges he knows what is in David's heart. 17:28c**

Sometimes people think they know things they don't know. Someone says, "I know what you are thinking." No, you don't. Eliab falsely claims that David had an insolent and wicked heart. Eliab is claiming that David is disrespectful and evil in his heart.

Only God knows the heart (I Kings 8:39) and the truth is David was a man after God's own heart.

**Discouragement Allegation #4** - He alleges David came to see the battle. **17:28d**

There is a thing in psychology called projection. A person projects onto someone else what they themselves are doing or have done. The one who is watching and doing nothing about anything are David's brothers, not David. They are the ones who dress up every day and watch from the side of a mountain to see what is happening. David is about to do something about it.

All of these are false allegations. None of this is true. In fact, in **verse 29** David said I did not do a thing wrong, and he continued to speak with the people (**v. 30**).

When you are doing the will of God, you may expect that people will make up stuff to try to discredit you and stop you. Don't let them faze you, stay focused and do the job.

**POTENTIAL NEGATIVE ROADBLOCK #2** – David is discouraged by Saul. **17:31-39**

There are two ways that Saul was a discouragement to David:

**Discouragement Way #1** - Saul discouraged David verbally. **17:31-37**

I don't think most people give one moment's thought to what they say with their mouth. Job's friends are a good example. They verbally beat him down and Saul does that here to David.

According to **verse 31**, some people told Saul there was a young man out there asking questions about the Goliath matter, so Saul sent for him.

When David got before Saul, he said don't let his threats bother you because I will go fight Goliath (**verse 32**).

You would think this would be good news for Saul. But according to **verse 33**, Saul tries to talk him out of it. He says you are too young. You are just a teenager and Goliath has been a military man all of his life. He is not only a giant, but he has been a warrior and fighter since he was young.

Look at this. It is God's will for David to fight Goliath and he is running into one Satanic roadblock after another. When Satan is trying to stop you from doing God's will, there will be roadblocks that will try to prevent it. There will be discouragements and negatives trying to keep you from doing God's will.

The only American to win the Olympic gold medal in the 10,000 meter run was an Indian runner whose name was Billy Mills. When Billy Mills went to the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, the coaches did not even take the time to give him a running strategy. They talked to the other two runners as if they would win and then said to Billy, you try to do the best you can and hang in there as long as you can. In fact, at the start of the race one of the commentators said no one expects Billy Mills to win this. Talk about verbal discouragement. But he didn't let that stop him. He is the one who won.

Now Saul was verbally discouraging David. Most would have said, well I tried and Saul doesn't want me to do this, so I'll head home. Not David. He responded to Saul in four ways, giving him his credentials:

**(Response #1) - David identifies himself as Saul's servant. 17:34a**

He is not some trained military hero, but he does see himself as a servant of Saul.

**(Response #2) - David informs Saul of a physical confrontation with a lion and bear. 17:34b-36a**

The known enemies of sheep are lions and bears. There are two types of lions, the short hair and the long hair, and the bears were the brown bears in the Grizzly family.

David says I have done battle with those enemies of lions and bears. David says when a lion or bear took one of my sheep, I went out after it and I rescued the sheep. I killed them both which is exactly what I will do to Goliath.

He doesn't talk about military exploits; he talks about personal battles he fought without any spectators.

**(Response #3) - David guarantees that he will kill Goliath. 17:36b**

David says Goliath will be like the bear and lion, he will end up dead.

**(Response #4) - David credits God for giving victory over animals and Goliath. 17:37**

The language here is very intriguing. To get the sheep away from a lion and bear, David had to go into some type of hand-to-hand combat. **David knew God had given him victory.**

This is a very important point to see. **Confidence comes from accomplished facts from one's personal history of life in what we have seen God do.**

When Satan is trying to discourage and intimidate through some intimidating challenge, just remember what you have seen God do. Remember victories you have experienced from the hand of God. Remember times when you have seen God care for you.

Paul did that in the final hours of his life (II Tim. 4:17-18).

**Discouragement Way #2 - Saul discouraged David physically. 17:38-39**

Saul decided that he wanted David to wear his armor to fight Goliath. We may recall that Saul is a very tall man (I Sam. 9:2). Knowing Saul, he is probably thinking all the people will see David is wearing my armor and weaponry. In other words, they will realize this fight is connected to me.

Now the weapons that Saul wanted David to use were not weapons David would ever use. In fact, these weapons would hinder David and not help him.

This is important to see. When God directs you to do a task, you must be you and not be someone you are not. You must use the tools you have and not the ones you don't have. God's callings are God's enablements.

Never do you take an untested weapon into battle. You are asking for defeat if you do that. Thank God David said, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them" and he took them off.

It is another negative. David was a young man in tremendous shape. He was not some sickly, wimpy teenager. He was a rough, tough guy and was mountain wise. David's real strength was his faith in God, not his faith in Saul's armor.

David was David. He was not Saul. He would use his skills and abilities to fight for God.

**Lessons:**

- 1) God's will is not always a smooth sailing course. There will be discouragements and setbacks and roadblocks.**
- 2) When you are truly doing God's will, you will be criticized, second guessed and verbally attacked.**
- 3) When you are threatened, remember the facts of what you have actually seen God do in caring for you.**
- 4) Stay the course no matter how intimidating because in the end you will be the victor.**
- 5) Give all the glory and credit to God.**