

Your Giant Must Fall

Introduction

Would you open your Bible to the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel, chapter 17? As we look at this chapter that contains one of the most iconic accounts in the Bible, I want to ask you to look at it tonight and for several weeks ahead with fresh eyes.

Nearly two years ago, I read a book by Pastor Louie Giglio entitled *Goliath Must Fall*. As I read it, I knew I would preach a series of messages using the book's premise as a theme.

Let's read the first 11 verses of 1 Samuel 17; then, we'll dig into the theme of the series.

Bible

(1) Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. (2) And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. (3) And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. (4) And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. (5) And he had an helmet of brass upon his

head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. (6) And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. (7) And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. (8) And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. (9) If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. (10) And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. (11) When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

1 Samuel 17:1-11 - KJV

Introduction

The Philistines were a constant enemy of and threat to the Israelites. They were a Canaanite people who lived in the region before Israel's entry under the leadership of Joshua. They were technologically advanced, polytheistic people. At this junction, they pressed into central Judah. King Saul mustered Israel's army and met them at the Valley of Elah, where this event occurred.

Can you imagine it?

I am sure when Saul called his army to action, he did not intend to remain unengaged with the

enemy. However, when the armies made camp across from each other with the Valley of Elah between them, they remained in this deadlock for nearly six weeks!

Why?

One reason, one man, one giant.

Goliath showed up every morning for forty days with the same tactics, challenge, and reproach...By this fortieth day, the reward given to the man who challenged and defeated Goliath surpassed imagination. Wealth, tax-free existence, and the king's daughter in marriage – that's what Saul offered. But no one took him up on the offer. It seemed this would go on forever.

Do you think this sounds familiar to you?

You might not be facing off against a nearly ten-foot giant, but you may be facing off against a problem that has become gigantic in your life. A habit, behavior, thinking pattern, addiction, or similar struggle may have grown so large that it is a giant in your life. It haunts and taunts you regularly, keeps you immobilized – unable to progress or move forward, and leaves you discouraged, depressed, and defeated. Like the Israelites were, you are deadlocked.

God has something better designed for you. He's purposed something better for you. To experience it, **your giant must fall.**

Throughout this series, like the giant of 1 Samuel 17 had a name, we will name some of our giants. As Pastor Craig Groeschel says, "You cannot defeat an enemy you cannot define." So,

we will name our giants and look at God's Word for the truth we need to lead us to victory. I desire – I pray that as we name our giants, receive the truth about our giants, and put our God-given resources to work, our giants will fall.

For now, let's select a few thoughts from 1 Samuel 17 to start us thinking about our giants.

1...Your giants are well-armed and armored (vv. 4-7)

Explanation

Depending on the exact measurement of a cubit at the time (yes, it varied), Goliath most likely stood between eight-and-a-half and nine-and-a-half feet tall. That itself would intimidate anyone! Additionally, he was a veteran soldier with imposing arms and armor. One Bible scholar noted that Goliath's arms and armor weighed 150 to 200 pounds.

Can you imagine battling with arms and armor weighing you down like that?!

It implies that he was well-armed and armored.

Application

The same applies to your enemy and the giants he animates and enables in your life.

2...Your giants persist (v. 16)

Bible

(16) And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

1 Samuel 17:16 - KJV

Explanation

Wow. Forty days. Day and night. Goliath appeared and verbally attacked the army of Israel eight times in forty days. As if they needed the reminders twice a day for forty days. They were already deadlocked. It's as if he kept showing up, just to rub it in.

Bible

(2) Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Luke 4:2 - KJV

Explanation

For forty days, Satan attacked and tempted Him while Jesus fasted in the wilderness. For forty days and nights, Satan persisted in his efforts to distress and defeat the very Son of God.

Application

Your giants, animated and enabled by Satan, persist like Goliath with Israel and Satan with

Jesus. They wear you down. They press, push, and prod you.

Has anyone here experienced what I am describing?

3...Your giants draw your attention (vv. 24-25)

Bible

(24) And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. (25) And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

1 Samuel 17:24-25 - KJV

Explanation

Rather than focusing on God, the Israelites focused on the man. This identifies an essential thought because God told them that no one would stand before them, as they were faithful and obedient.

Application

Your giants will steal your attention. They're big, loud, audacious. Not because they are bigger

and better than the resources you have through Christ, but to distract you from the bigger and better resources you have.

4...Your giants use discouragement to stop you (vv. 28, 33, & 42)

Bible

(28) And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

1 Samuel 17:28 - KJV

Explanation

Whatever the reason, David's oldest brother's words could have discouraged him.

Bible

(33) And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

1 Samuel 17:33 - KJV

Explanation

King Saul, who sought a volunteer for forty days, did not want to use David. He discouraged him.

Bible

(42) And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. (43) And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. (44) And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

1 Samuel 17:42-44 - KJV

Explanation

Finally, the giant himself discouraged David. Everyone told him he couldn't. They suspected his motives, his ability, and his faith.

Notice how discouragement came from those who should have encouraged and supported him.

Application

Friend, sometimes you'll be discouraged by someone who should encourage and support you.

A parent, a brother or sister in Christ, or a spiritual leader will intentionally or unintentionally discourage you. And, whether they do or not, your old adversary will be primed and ready.

5...Your giants are defeated (vv. 45-51)

Bible

(45) Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. (46) This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. (47) And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands. (48) And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. (49) And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. (50) So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. (51) Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

1 Samuel 17:45-51 - KJV

Explanation

I want to end on this positive note. All those giants, whatever yours is or are, have already been

defeated. You see, before you enter the Valley of Elah to face your giant, Jesus entered the Valley of Elah for you. Could you listen to what we read in these two New Testament passages?

Bible

(8) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8 - KJV

Bible

(14) Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 2:14-15 - KJV

Application

That giant, the one who haunts and taunts you day by day, has already been defeated by Jesus.

The battle is the LORD's, and that battle has already been fought and won.

That doesn't mean we do not and will not have battles to fight. Our defeated foe is still a deadly foe. However, Jesus has already won the victory, given us everything we need to fight, and

declared that we are victors.

Are your giants real? Yes.

Are they well-armed and armored? Yes.

Do they persist? Yes.

Do they draw your attention? Yes.

Do they discourage? Yes.

But that's only part of the story. The rest of the story is that Jesus entered the Valley of Elah before you, faced down and fought the enemy, and won. So while we will name giants, receive the truth about our giants, and talk about resources God has given us to live in victory, the first truth you need is this: Your giant is already defeated.