

Is There Not a Cause?

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I. David (as a lad)

1Sa 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle...

1Sa 17:2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together...

1Sa 17:3 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.

1Sa 17:4 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...

1Sa 17:8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them...choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

1Sa 17:9 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.

1Sa 17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid...

1Sa 17:16 And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

1Sa 17:17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched *corn*, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

1Sa 17:20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him...

1Sa 17:22 And David...came and saluted his brethren.

1Sa 17:23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard *them*.

1Sa 17:24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid...

1Sa 17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying...who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

1Sa 17:28 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.

1Sa 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? *Is there not a cause?* ...

1Sa 17:31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed *them* before Saul: and he sent for him.

1Sa 17:32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

1Sa 17:33 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.

1Sa 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

1Sa 17:35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

1Sa 17:36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

1Sa 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

1Sa 17:38 And Saul armed David with his armour...

1Sa 17:39 ...And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved *them*. And David put them off him.

1Sa 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling *was* in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

1Sa 17:41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him.

1Sa 17:42 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.

1Sa 17:43 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.

1Sa 17:44 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.

1Sa 17:45 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.

1Sa 17:46 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.

1Sa 17:47 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.

1Sa 17:48 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.

1Sa 17:49 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.

1Sa 17:50 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.

1Sa 17:51 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.

1Sa 17:52 And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines...

II. Others with the God-given opportunity of a cause (a cause makes life worth living)

A. Isaiah—A prophet with a cause

Isa 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

B. Jeremiah—A preacher with a cause

Jer 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jer 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child.

Jer 1:7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Jer 20:7 O LORD, thou hast deceived me...I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Jer 20:8 For since I spake...the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.

Jer 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

C. Peter and Andrew—Two brothers with a cause

Mat 4:20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

D. Paul—A man with a cause worth living for—A cause worth dying for

Act 20:23 ...the Holy Ghost witnesseth...saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

E. Unnamed others—Who suffered and died for a cause

Heb 11:36 And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Heb 11:38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:)...

III. Jesus—The greatest man with the greatest cause (the cause to die for you and me)

Mat 1:21 ...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Rev 13:8 ...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Isa 46:11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.

Joh 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but **for this cause** came I unto this hour.

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and **for this cause** came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Joh 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? ...

IV. In a world full of vanity—Christians have the God-given opportunity of a cause

A. Church —Preaching the gospel is a God-given ‘church-cause’

2Ti 1:12 **For the which cause** I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

B. Church —Responding to the preached word is a God-given ‘church-cause’

1Th 2:13 **For this cause** also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

C. Family —Picturing Jesus to the world is a God-given ‘family-cause’

Eph 5:31 **For this cause** shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

D. Christians —Continuing in the cause of Christ is a God-given ‘Christian-cause’

2Co 4:16 **For which cause** we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

2Co 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.