



"David and Goliath"

1 Samuel 17

Sermon Date: March 21, 2010

Prayer:

Begin your lesson by praying that God will give you the desire to know Him more completely and the wisdom to learn and apply the truth of His word to your daily life. Pray that in His strength you will be prepared for the battles that come your way.

Review:

Last week we studied the very familiar story of Samson. We looked at Samson's life and how God used him to ultimately defeat the Israelite's enemy, the Philistines. So too we were reminded of how Christ, through His atoning death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, has ultimately defeated our enemies of sin, death, and the devil. We still battle the enemy while on this earth but we have great peace and joy in knowing our Lord has won the ultimate battle for us.

Scripture:

1 Samuel 17: 32-40, 45-51 (ESV)

32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 33 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." 34 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, 35 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. 36 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." 37 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!"

38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 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. 40 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.

45 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, 47 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."

48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 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.

50 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. 51 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.

Hermeneutics: *(the art and science of studying the Bible)*

1. Read 1 Samuel, chapter 17 slowly and deliberately two times. Note anything that is significant or new to you.

2. Define the following words:

Cubit -

Span -

Uncircumcised -

Kindle -

Disdain -

3. Outline the chapter by briefly describing the indicated sections:

Verses 1-11:

Verses 12-16:

Verses 17-23:

Verses 24-30:

Verses 31-39:

Verses 40-47:

Verses 48-54:

Verses 55-58:

4. Write a summary of the passage in 10 words or less.

Handling the Word:

1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and 1 Samuel 17:15-18, 28. Describe the events that occur in those sections. What is David's attitude? Why is it the correct attitude?

2. 1 Samuel 17:16 states: "For forty days, the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and night." Using a concordance (www.biblegateway.com/keyword), list other major events in Scripture that reference forty days. What is the common theme of those events?

3. List the verses in 1 Samuel 17 that indicate the Philistine's challenge against Israel was really a challenge against God? List the verses that communicate David's confidence that God would enable him to prevail?

4. Read Psalm 23. Could David have written this psalm in light of his conflict with Goliath? Note specific similarities.

5. List the ways Jesus Christ is foreshadowed in the story of David and Goliath.

Application:

1. David never wavered in his faith that God would prevail over the enemy. What is your attitude in difficult situations? Do you surrender to defeat or do you view challenges as an opportunity to reveal the power of God? Share an instance from your life when the Lord's power brought victory against insurmountable odds.

2. Explain how David demonstrates that simply duplicating the methods of others is not the only way to succeed in Christian work? In what ways can you follow David's example?

3. In John 15:5, Jesus told his disciples, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." David said in 1 Samuel 17:47, "The battle is the Lord's". Are these statements an excuse for believers to do nothing? We must be in the battle! What battle is the Lord asking you to fight in His strength?

4. David remembered the faithful provision of God in his past and this allowed him to trust and obey God, even when it meant going against all human reason and seemingly impossible circumstances. Do you see your faith developing with each experience of God's Sovereign assistance in your life? If you struggle in your faith, with what part of your life can you trust God today in order that you might begin a record of faith in God's provision for you?