

God is Faithful
1 Samuel 17
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Good morning everyone,

Today, we're going to talk about David and Goliath. God is faithful, and how God salvifically operated with the Israelites through David, God is faithful. You might be thinking to yourself, I live in Kailua HI, I'm thousands of years removed from the story of David Goliath, how do I know God is faithful today? I'm here to tell you that God is faithful, and he wants to be faithful in your life today.

Please turn in your bibles to First Samuel chapter 17. Today we're going to be reading out of the New International Version. Before the story unfolds in chapter 17, we see that God told the prophet Samuel to go to Jesse's house to anoint one of his sons to be the next king of Israel. Samuel travels to Jesse's house, meets all of the sons and lastly meets David, and even though he is the smallest of the sons, the youngest, and not by man's opinion the most likely to become king, God says that he looked at his heart and then chose him to be king. David was a man after God's own heart.

As the story in First Samuel unfolds, we learned that David repeatedly made mistakes, but he would soon repent from those mistakes, apologize, ask God for forgiveness, and be forgiven. There are usually consequences for our mistakes on earth. It is usually how it works. However, spiritually and eternally, God forgives us. Sometimes, even the social consequences are deleted by God.

The enemy to the Israelites was the Philistines. They began mounting forces against the Kingdom of the Israelites. Saul and his army were on one side of a valley, and the Philistines were on the other side. Down by the center of the valley, there was a river where eventually the showdown between David and Goliath occurred. But before we get there, let's pick up the story in First Samuel, chapter 17, verse one.

1 Samuel 17

New International Version

David and Goliath

17 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. ² Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. ³ The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

I've been to this place. It looks amazing. There are two different hills, and a valley in between them. The river is picturesque. There are rocks in it.

⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.^[a]

This large man was over 9 feet tall! I myself am 6 feet 4 inches tall. Imagine someone about three feet taller than me!

⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels^[b];

This was 125 pounds of weight on him. This man was not only tall but he was very strong.

⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.^[c] His shield bearer went ahead of him.

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

This is interesting. Notice how Goliath is taunting the Israelites. He doesn't just say let's have a friendly wrestling match like at our high school. No, he's saying let's fight to the death, and whoever wins, will not only be the victor of this battle but the victor of each other's nations forever. This is a very strong wager.

¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Notice the response that the Israelites had. The author of First Samuel, who is the prophet Samuel, didn't write down that the Israelites were scared only. No, he also wrote that the king himself, Saul, was dismayed and terrified. Folks, leadership influences the team attitude. If the team is sad, it might be because the leader is sad. If the leader is happy, the team will probably become happy. Notice how the king of all of Israel was dismayed and terrified. The text also says that the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

¹² Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. ¹³ Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. ¹⁴ David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, ¹⁵ but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

Sometimes before a big change in life, you need to figure out which obligation will become more important to you. In David's case, Saul became more important to him soon after Goliath died.

¹⁶ For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

The enemy does not take a break usually in trying to belittle his foes.

¹⁷ Now Jesse told his son David, “Take this ephah^[d] of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. ¹⁸ Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance^[e] from them. ¹⁹ They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.”

It's good to have a concerned father, and Jesse was evidently that concerned father who wanted David to get a report on his other sons.

²⁰ Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

Notice where the story is at this point. The Israelites are afraid of the enemy. The story will not end this way.

²⁵ Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

²⁶ David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

Notice the righteous indignation and righteous anger that David had towards this enemy. He knew that God was bigger than the enemy. He knew that God would vindicate his people. David was disgusted at the fact that somebody would try to defame God.

²⁷ They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

²⁸ When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

Often times before somebody does something righteous and godly, they are buffeted by somebody within God's camp speaking on the enemy's behalf. Where in your life has the enemy spoken to your family or friends to keep you from God's calling?

²⁹ “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” ³⁰ He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. ³¹ What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

Notice that when you are righteous and take a stand for good morals and have convictions, authority takes notice.

³² David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

³³ Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”

It takes boldness to speak truth to authority. David spoke up and shared testimonies of God vindicating him in the past and how this would lead to his vindication and the nation of Israel’s indication in the future.

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Don't try to mask yourself in the world's ways of being successful if God is already given you the keys to success.

⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

Don't let the enemy taunt you, lie to you, and belittle you. David didn't let this happen to him.

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

Speak truth to the enemy. If there's a promise from God's Word that talks about your health, your provision, your salvation, you're right standing before Him and then your family, declare that in the enemy's face. Don't let the enemy be a liar to you.

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

God will surprise you. It does not take sophisticated planning and strategy to be successful. With God on your side, anything is possible.

⁵¹ David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

Don't do a halfway job and being successful with God. Be successful with God all the way.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. ⁵² Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath^[f] and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. ⁵³ When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

⁵⁴ David took the Philistine’s head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine’s weapons in his own tent.

When God gives you a victory, create a memory in your mind and something visible that you can see that celebrates the victory that God has given you.

⁵⁵ As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is that young man?”

Abner replied, “As surely as you live, Your Majesty, I don’t know.”

⁵⁶ The king said, “Find out whose son this young man is.”

⁵⁷ As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine’s head.

⁵⁸ “Whose son are you, young man?” Saul asked him.

David said, “I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.”

Know your identity. Know who you are. Let your speech be filled with confidence in who God has made you to be. God was faithful for David to destroy Goliath. God will be faithful in your life to conquer the enemies that you are facing today.