



DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17:31–49

RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 13:8–15 | Genesis 3:15 | Psalm 143:9–12

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 7.21.24

SUMMARY

The account of David and Goliath is one that many Christian people hear beginning in their childhood and throughout their lives. We'll often read it as a story of bravery—how David's faith in God gave him the courage to face and defeat a giant. While this is an element of the account, we miss the bigger picture in God's unfolding redemptive history if it is our sole takeaway. We must set the story of David and Goliath against the backdrop of David's mounting conflict with King Saul. Though Saul was Israel's king, the Spirit of God departed from him (1 Samuel 16:14) because of his disobedience (1 Samuel 13:8–15), and the Lord, through Samuel, secretly anointed David to be Israel's next king—a king who would lead after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Israel needed a new and better king. So David's battle with Goliath would be the means God uses to show Israel that David—a man after God's own heart—is better qualified to be Israel's king and the "champion" of God's people in battle and in faith. David's defeat of Goliath accelerated Saul's jealousy of David, which continued to worsen over time, ultimately leading to his death. The fundamental message of this account is that the only hope for God's people is not found in bravery, armor, or spears and clubs; their only hope is a man after God's own heart. This stirring account foreshadows the bigger story of Jesus Christ. A giant enemy—sin and death—taunts the people of God, and their only hope of defeating this enemy is if God provides a Deliverer who reigns with God's own heart; his name is Jesus Christ—a new and better David—who crushes and destroys the head of our enemy (1 Samuel 17:51; Genesis 3:15). Jesus, however, did not defeat our enemy with mere bravery; he defeated our enemy with humility, sacrifice, and righteousness. Jesus Christ is our Champion.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Samuel 17:31–49.

Saul gave David a list of reasons why he shouldn't face the mighty Goliath—he was too young, his enemy was too skilled, and he wasn't well-equipped. What made these factors irrelevant in his battle with Goliath? What parallels can you draw to your own story of salvation?

How does the story of David ultimately point us to the story of Jesus? In addition to sin and death, what other enemies in your life has Jesus defeated?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.