Goliath – You Know the Story, but How Much Do You Know of the Back Story?

Ralph Walker · 1 Samuel 17

INTRODUCTION

- And how we deal with the fear is probably a more important indicator of our character than what we're afraid of.
- The story we have heard from the time we're small children, about David and his encounter with Goliath may not be quite as cut and dried and simple as it appears to be.

1 Army to Army, Israel Is Ready to Fight

1 Samuel 17:1–3

- Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines.
- The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side, while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side with a valley between them.
- Israel is ready to go to war. They're ready to face the Philistines.

2 Goliath Is a Killing Machine

1 Samuel 17:4–11

- He was clothed with scale armor, which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. Our best guess is he's got a hundred and fifty pounds of armor on his shoulders and body.
- The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron.
- I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man that we may fight together.
- When Saul and all of Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

3 David Exhibits Incredible Confidence

1 Samuel 17:26; 1 Samuel 17:34–37; 1 Samuel 17:46–47

- First of all, it's based on past experience. He has been successful against really impressive foes.
- More than his confidence because of what he's done is his confidence in who he belongs to. He is confident in his God.
- Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should taunt the armies of the living God?
- That all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear, for the battle is the Lord's.
- It is not about us. It is about our God.

4 An Israelite Is Not Ready to Fight a Philistine

- Israel is ready to fight Philistia. But an Israelite is not ready to fight a Philistine.
- The army of Israel is ready to go to battle with the army of the Philistines. But when Goliath says, give me one man, they all back off.
- It's easy for us to say, yes, we draw up in battle array when we are here. But isolate us.
- Let teachers, let community people, let your neighbors say things about our God, say things about morality, say things about God's people, and just live with it in silence, and you will live with it in silence.

5 Nobody Thinks David Can Win

1 Samuel 17:33; 1 Samuel 17:44

- You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him. You are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth.
- There were three elements to an army in ancient warfare. There was infantry, there was cavalry, and there were slingers or projectile warriors.
- Goliath is infantry. He is slow.
- David brought a gun to a knife fight.
- It is that he went up there when nobody thought he could win but God.

6 What Do We Learn from That

1 Samuel 17:49–51

- The world at large will never parrot God's wisdom. So ignore current thinking. Faith is trusting God in the face of current thinking.
- Number two, faith is strengthened by past victories. It is important when you're going into a situation to hear the successes of others and to remember your own successes in the past.
- David is successful because it is all about God. It's not about David. And it's not about Israel. And it's not about Goliath. It is about God.

THE CHALLENGE

It is about God. Everything we do must be about God.

MY NOTES