

SERMON: “Slaying The Giant In Our Life” by Pastor Ed Terry Delivered 07 21 19
Luke 12: 1 – 12; Ephesians 6: 10 – 18; Romans 8:31 -39; **1 Samuel 17: 1 -52(Sermon)**

The account of David and Goliath is a very familiar Bible story so we have to be careful so we will not miss what The Bible says and so we can apply these principles in our lives today?

First a little background.

The Philistines who were Israel’s archenemy were gathered for battle against Israel on one side of the mountain overlooking the valley of Elah.

Saul and the army of Israel were gathered on the mountain on the other side of the valley.

David’s father Jesse had three sons in Israel’s army.

Jesse was worried about his sons and since there were no cell phones in that day Jesse sent his youngest son David to see how his older 3 sons were.

Goliath was a giant from Gath and Goliath was the champion of the Philistine army.

In verse 4 read that Goliath was 9 feet 9 inches tall (verse 4) and Goliath was a skilled experienced warrior (verse 33).

Goliath had a suit of bronze armor that weighed approximately 125 pounds (verse 5) and a spear like a weaver’s beam.

The spear head weighed 15 pounds (verse 7).

Every day for 40 days Goliath came out and shouted at Israel’s army and challenged them.

Goliath said, **“Send someone down to fight me and if they kill me the Philistines will be your slaves but if I kill your champion, Israel will be our servants.”** (verses 8, 9, 16)

Verse 11 tells us Israel’s army was **“dismayed and greatly afraid”**.

Goliath was big, arrogant, and very intimidating!

Goliath defied Israel’s army and the Israelites were paralyzed with fear.

When we look at the situation we can see that their fear was a natural reaction.

Remember that Goliath was over 9 feet tall and carried a spear that looked like a fence post.

And to make matters worse, Israel’s leader King Saul was just as afraid as his army was because King Saul was looking at the situation from a human perspective.

Verse 33 tells us that David was a youth.

David was a shepherd boy.

David was not a skilled experienced warrior and David did not have any armor.

If we look at David's physical ability, we would conclude that David was no match for Goliath.

But before we give up on David we need to look at David's assets.

David was not one to stand by when someone defied his God.

“For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should taunt the armies of the Living God?”
(verse 26)

And in verse 37 we read that David trusted God to deliver him.

David's faith was strong, not just in words; David put his life on the line.

David knew Goliath's days were numbered because Goliath had gone against God's people.

“The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of the Philistine.” (verse 36 & 37)

David knew his physical limitations.

David knew by himself he was no match for Goliath.

But David also knew the source of His strength was Almighty God.

David went to fight Goliath in the name of The Lord.

Verse 45 tells us; ***“I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts”***

Verse 47 is clear; David did not fight for recognition or for David's personal gain.

David fought for God's glory and honor; ***“that all those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that The Lord saves.”***

Then in verse 51 we see that Goliath was killed by his own sword.

Remember the old saying *“Those who live by the sword will die by the sword”*

The story of David and Goliath is a nice story but does it have to do with us today?

After all we don't have men over 9 feet tall walking around trying to pick a fight with us.

But we all have giants in our lives.

Our giants are any situation **or** any person that strikes fear into our hearts that paralyzes us.

A giant is any situation that we flee from (verse 24).

A giant is any situation that belittles or defies Jesus and / or the Christian way of life (verse 10).

Some examples that could be **or** that could become giants in our life include drug and / or alcohol addiction, fear of the unknown, prejudices, loneliness, discouragement, worry, guilt, anger, procrastination, doubt, jealousy, temptation, resentment, and / or failure.

There are giants lurking all around us today who are just as dangerous and just as intimidating as Goliath was because they rob us of the peace, the joy, and the hope of the abundant life that Jesus promised to His followers. (John 10:10)

If we don't slay these personal giants they **will** enslave us.

Look at the last part of verse 9.

“If I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us.”

If our giants get the best of us then we become slaves to that situation.

Satan is our enemy and Satan is behind all of the giants in our life.

Satan's objective is to steal the love, the peace, the joy, and the hope Jesus gives us.

Satan's goal is to keep us from being effective Christians.

Sadly most Christians do not think Satan is real nor do they realize that they are in a spiritual battle until it is too late.

Most of us are like David since we are not skilled experienced spiritual warriors.

We may think that **we** are weak, unequipped, unskilled, and unworthy.

But as Christians we can face and we can conquer any of these giants in our lives.

Remember one of the giants was doubt.

If we are going to slay the giants in our life we need to learn from David's example.

The first step in defeating the giants in our life is to acknowledge that Satan is behind all of our giants and that we are in a spiritual battle.

Secondly to defeat the giants in our life we must be walking closely with The Lord.

In 1st Samuel 16:13 we read; ***“From that day on The Spirit of The Lord came upon David.”***

As Christians we have been given God’s Indwelling Holy Spirit (John 14: 15 – 17)

The Holy Spirit is a one time gift from God.

But we all have a daily responsibility to be filled with The Holy Spirit and not to put out the Spirit’s fire. (Ephesians 5:18; 1st Thessalonians 5:19)

Friends we can not walk with The Lord if we are holding hands with Satan.

You see when there is sin in our life there is no power in our life.

The third step to defeat the giants in our life is to put on the whole armor of God and to use the weapons our Lord has given us. (Ephesians 6:11 & 17)

We can not win a spiritual battle with physical weapons.

Remember when David put Saul’s armor on David could not even walk.

David probably fell flat on his face. That is a picture of us when we take a physical approach in fighting our giants.

Next if we are going to slay the giants in our life we must take a stand for God.

In verse 26 we read; ***“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the army of the living God”***

In effect David was saying; *“you are powerless because you are going against the people of The Living God.”*

Do we stand firm in our faith when others speak against Christian beliefs and principles?

Do we stand up for our God when people take God’s name in vain?

Jesus said I will acknowledge those who publicly acknowledge me and I will disown those who disown me. (Luke 12: 8)

If we are going to slay the giants in our life we must not loose our focus.

Notice David was not distracted by the apparently hopeless situation.

Nor was David discouraged by the unbelief of others.

David said ***“Let no one loose heart on account of this Philistine”*** (Verse 32) and in verse 48 we read David took the offense by running quickly toward Goliath.

Remember David’s older brother Eliab criticized and mocked David’s motives.

“Why did you come down here; you only came down to watch the battle.” (Verse 28)

David kept his focus and David was not intimidated by Goliath.

Remember when Peter was walking on the water Peter sank like a rock when he took his eyes off of Jesus.

To slay the giants in our life we must know The Lord is the source of our strength and we must depend on The Lord to deliver us.

“I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty. This day The Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I will 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 there is a God in Israel. 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.” (verses 45 – 47)

What about us?

Do we depend upon our money, our physical ability, our technology or do we turn our problems over to God and depend upon Him to deliver us?

To slay the giants in our life we must use the skills and abilities God has given to us.

David was a shepherd boy.

One of a shepherd’s jobs is to protect the sheep from predators.

The weapons of a shepherd in that day were a staff and sling.

From verses 34 -37 we see that David was skilled at using a sling because David had killed both the lion and the bear.

To slay the giants in our life our faith must be real and we must apply our faith to the situation at hand.

Again in verse 45 we read; ***“I come to you in the name of the Lord Almighty...”***

Does being a Christian make a difference in the way we act and / or react to every day situations?

Do we know the promises of God and do we apply God’s word to the situation?

We all need to ask ourselves is my faith in Jesus a noun or a verb?

Lastly David fought for God's glory.

“That the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.” (Verse 46)

David's motives were pure.

David was not on an ego trip as his brother claimed.

David did not fight Goliath for David. David fought Goliath for God's honor and glory.

Do we pray for The Lord to intervene in our situation for our personal comfort **or** do we ask The Lord to use our situation to further His kingdom on earth.

In this story Goliath represents all the giants of worldliness in our life and David represents all believers.

In 1st John 2:15 we are told, ***“Do not love not the world”***

We are in the world but we are not of the world.

David's faith and trust in God enabled him to go out and defeat the giant Goliath.

In 1st John 5:4 & 5 we read; ***“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the son of God.”***

You see if our faith in The Lord is genuine, if our motive is pure, and if we trust in The Lord we will have the confidence of David and we will slay the giants in our life.

Jesus Christ has already has won the battle over sin, death, and Satan.

God has given us the spiritual armor and the spiritual weapons we need our giants.

As Christians all we must do is to prepare for the battle, show up for the battle, and claim the victory in Jesus' name.

AMEN