

Series: Popular Stories

Title: The Gospel of David and Goliath

Text: 1 Sam 17:1-58

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1 Samuel 17: 1: Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. 2: And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. 3: And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. 4: And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. (8.5-9.5 ft tall) 5: And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. 6: And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. 7: And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. 8: And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. 9: If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. 10: And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. 11: When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid. 12: Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse...

The Philistines are on one mountain—Israel on the other mountain. Now before this, Saul had bypassed the high priest—same as coming to God without Christ. So the children of Israel were afraid—they had no man to go before them to fight this giant. Adam sinned and plunged all men into sin—so we had no man to fight for us.

But also, before this battle, God had anointed David the man after his own heart—David was the true king of Israel—a type of Christ—before the world was made, God anointed Christ, the true King, the last Adam, who came forth to represent God's elect Israel as David did here.

Proposition: So on these two mountains Goliath and the Philistines typify the devil and his seed—the devil and the reprobate who hates God; David typifies Christ Jesus—the seed of woman—who won the victory over the devil and sin for all God's elect Israel.

Genesis 3: 15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

DAVID A TYPE OF CHRIST

1 Samuel 17: 12: Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse...17: And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren;

David was the son of Jesse. According to the flesh Christ is the Son of David, the Son of Jesse. David was a keeper of his father's sheep—even after he was anointed he went to the field to keep his father's sheep. Christ is the anointed King who humbled himself to be the Shepherd of God's elect—Christ said, *"I am the true Shepherd and I give my life for the sheep."*

David's father sent him to his brethren at the forefront of the battle—*"And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren."* God the Father sent Christ at the time appointed to deliver his elect from the bondage of the devil

Hebrews 2: 14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

WHY CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS LIFE

1 Samuel 17: 25: And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.[exempt from taxes forever] 26: And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 27: And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

Christ was rich and became poor for his people. But, having accomplished our redemption, now God the Father has given Christ *great riches*. As the glorified GodMan, God has given all things into his hand. And Christ shares the spoils of victory with his people.

Christ laid down his life for the *"kings' daughter."* Christ came to lay down his life for his elect bride the church. By shedding his blood he accomplished her redemption.

Christ laid down his life *to make his father's house free*—Christ paid all his people owed to divine justice so that the law says of his people *"Paid in full!"*

By making us the righteousness of God in him, Christ *took away the reproach of his people* forever. Before God, Christ made an end of sins for his people. Christ blotted out all the sins of his people by his blood. He appeared to take away sin and in him is no sin.

Above all else Christ came to honor the living God. David said that this giant defies the armies of *"the living God."* Above all that Christ accomplished for his people, Christ laid down his life to glorify the living God! To declare God alone is the salvation of his people.

WHY CHRIST MUST SAVE HIS PEOPLE

1 Samuel 17: 24: And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid...28: And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy

pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

All born of Adam have a sin-nature. It is the only nature of an unregenerate sinner. But it is still in a believer as well. The sinful nature in all men only produces unbelief. It makes us fear everything but God.

When trials come, when we see our sins, when God's providence sends a giant of obstacle and trouble into our life, unbelief and fear of man causes "evil surmisings." We become "judges of evil thoughts."

Eliab was David's older brother. He became angry at David. He said why have you come down here. He imputed evil motives to David. He accused David of leaving their father's few sheep—"those few sheep in the wilderness"—so as to say that David had but one responsibility to keep a small flock of sheep and he could not even do that. Eliab accused David of pride and of an evil heart. He accused David of coming to watch the battle only to see his brethren slain in the battle. Do we do that toward our brethren when times get hard? Yes. But worse, we do it to Christ. Christ "*came unto his own and his own received him not.*" In all our trials Christ is still coming to his own—and when we are in our flesh—by our evil surmising of one another, the real problem is, we are not receiving Christ. The sin-nature in a believer causes us to fear men and providential giants and surmise evil when we do not know the hearts in our brethren and we do not know why Christ has sent the giant he has sent.

CHRIST RENEWS THE HEART OF HIS CHILD

1 Samuel 17: 29: And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? 30: And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner...

Christ saves us in the first hour by giving us a new heart through the Holy Spirit regenerating us by Christ speaking into us, saying, "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?" And Christ continues to renew our inward man as we face the enemy, subduing our sinful flesh of Saul full of unbelief, by asking us the same question. The same as David said this to his brother then went from man to man in Israel saying the same, so Christ goes to each of his own speaking this effectually into our heart as we face every giant.

Christ says "What have I done? Why did I come down? Was there not a cause? Was there not a cause why God ordained the devil and his seed to crucify our Redeemer? Was it not to bring glory to his name? Did he accomplish it?" So Christ speaks to us and says, "Is there not the same cause in my providence for you? Is it not to defeat our enemies in our flesh and enemies without and to grow us in the fear of God and faith in our Redeemer? Is it not to remind us once again of the great salvation Christ has already accomplished for us?" By speaking the gospel of Christ's victory over the devil and sin and death into our hearts, Christ renews us to know our current trial is for the same cause—to remind us Christ is the Victor and we in him.

THE ONE MEANS OF SALVATION

1 Sam 17: 32: And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of [this giant]; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

We can picture Saul. They tell him not to fear they have found a man who will fight Goliath. Saul is expecting some mighty, skilled, strong soldier covered in armor. Instead, in walks a little shepherd boy.

Beginning to end Christ teaches his child the victory is won through weakness. It is won by Christ who took the weakness of our flesh. Despised, rejected of men and yet all along Christ is the Mighty King of glory anointed of God as was this lowly shepherd boy David. Christ uses the gospel which declares his death on the cross and the world causes it foolishness. He uses men to preach who appear as nothing before men so that Christ alone receives the glory in those he saves.

When Christ faced the devil and every enemy of God and his people, that's what God's righteous servant said, "Let no man's heart fail because of the giant; thy servant will go and fight this giant on your behalf." Christ became the servant of unbelieving, sinful Saul's like us. Christ said, "This is for my Father's glory? The cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink it? Is God's glory not cause to believe my Father? His is faithfulness not cause to rest in his everlasting covenant to me so that I set my face like a flint? He is near that justifieth me. Let no man's heart fail because of the devil and sin and death. I am my Father's righteous servant, I will go and conquer this enemy for my people."

So when Christ brings giants before us, believer, it is to remind us he already won the victory. Christ says to his unbelieving believing child, "*Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me, I have conquered the great enemy for you, I will overcome all else for you*"

THE ANSWER OF UNBELIEF

1 Sam 17: 33: And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

I am ashamed of my unbelief. Unbelief, fear of opposition, dejection over sin and circumstances is saying to Christ, "Thou art not able to win this fight." But even when his child is that weak, Christ continues to save us in spite of us. If we believe not, the Lord is faithful. He knows them that are his. It is not our faith that saves us, it is Christ who gives us faith and who must sustain it. See how the Lord uses weakness to manifest Christ is our Power?

Be sure to get this: no one is too weak if Christ is their Power but many are too strong to trust him alone.

CHRIST'S QUALIFICATION

1 Samuel 17: 34: And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: [one little lamb] 35: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36: Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37: David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

For one of his father's lambs, David killed a lion and bear with his bare hands. He said the Lord delivered me out of the paw of the lion and the bear and he will deliver me out of the hand of this giant.

Let only one of Christ's lambs be in danger and our great Shepherd comes and continually reminds us HE IS ABLE. Think on this: if Christ had only one elect sheep, he would have come and laid down his life for that one the same as he shed his life's blood for a multitude of God's elect. Justice had to be satisfied if he saved one the same as if he saved a multitude. And Christ Shepherds us with the constant care as if we were the only sheep he has. Christ said in his parable, "If I have one sheep strayed from the fold, I will go find him and deliver him."

Brethren, Christ delivered his people by his perfect faith. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Christ shall keep renewing us in faith so that we continue believing, "The LORD that delivered me from every enemy on the cross, he will deliver me from this present trial."

NO MEANS BUT CHRIST CRUCIFIED

1 Samuel 17: 39:...And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. 40: And he took his staff in his hand and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine....

Saul tried to help David by giving him armor and a helmet and coat of mail. David said, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off." Christ accomplished our redemption *by himself*. He did not need our assistance nor did He ask for it.

Hebrews 1: 3...when he had by himself purged our sins,

John 17: 4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Christ uses one means. He called us by his gospel which declared Christ alone by his cross won the victory. He will keep his child trusting him through this gospel and keep us using his gospel alone. Those that perish think it is foolishness to only preach Christ and him crucified. But Christ delivered us and continues to deliver by the means.

The staff in David's hand is a type of the gospel in Christ's hand. David wrote the Lord is my Shepherd, thy staff comforts me. The gospel in Christ's hand reaches to his little sheep and comfort us.

David took five smooth stones. Five is a number of grace in scripture. There are five words which declare the gospel of our entire salvation beginning to end is all of God alone in Christ his Son.

Romans 8: 29: For whom HE did foreknow, HE also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that HE might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom HE did predestinate, them HE also (3) called: and whom HE called, them HE also (4) justified: and whom HE justified, them HE also (5) glorified.

ONE STONE, ONE SWORD

1 Samuel 17: 45: Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. [Christ was David's sword, spear and shield] **46:** This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls 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 all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth NOT with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands...**49:** And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence A STONE, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. **50:** So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. **51:** Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took HIS SWORD, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith.

Christ came in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of God's elect Israel. He came to declare the LORD alone delivers his child. Christ declares salvation is not by sword and spear. But the battle is the LORD'S. Salvation is given freely to his child through the blood of Christ crucified.

David had five stones in his bag but *only one stone killed the enemy*. All the doctrine is concerning Christ, the one stone the builders set at nought

David used the giant's own sword to take off his head. The devil used the cross thinking he was destroying Christ but by that one weapon Christ crushed his head.

Hebrews 2: 14...through death, destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil 15: and delivered [his people] who through fear of death were all our lifetime subject to bondage.

Believer, "*we know all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" But the things Paul spoke of are already worked together and finished by Christ. They are those five stones God our Father accomplished in his Son by the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The reason he called you is because it is done. The reason he made you know you are justified by Christ is because it is finished. We are already glorified in Christ. It only remains for Christ to take us there.

Romans 8: 31: What shall we then say to these things? If GOD *be* for us, who *can be* against us? 32 HE that spared not HIS OWN SON, but delivered HIM up FOR US all, how shall HE not WITH HIM also FREELY GIVE us all [these 5] things.

The faith he gives and sustains is that in Christ we already have all these things by Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Indeed, he works all things together in our lesser deliverances in this life. But THE things he has already worked is our eternal salvation in Christ crucified! It is finished! He shall not lose one! He shall at last glorify each of his redeemed saints together with Christ.

THE EFFECT OF THIS GOSPEL

1 Samuel 17: 56 [Saul] said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling is....58:...David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite. 18: 1: And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

It is through this message Christ knits our hearts with him. David came to Jerusalem—into the king’s court (which was truly David’s court since he was king). David came with the head of the giant. David declared himself the son of Jesse. The result was Jonathan’s soul was knit together with the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

Christ our King comes into Jerusalem into his court—his church. He comes convincing us he has slain the giant for his people—the devil, sin, death and hell. Christ declares he is the Son of Jesse, the Son of David, the Son of God, the King, our Savior victorious in battle! By his word he knits our souls together with him. Therefore the weakest stripling sinner who believes on Christ has this assurance in Christ, “*we ARE more than conquerors through HIM that loved us*” (Rom 8: 37). So Christ says to you who believe and are now facing a giant in God’s good providence,

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I HAVE overcome the world.

Amen!