

God vs. Goliath: How God Uses Small People to Do Great Things (1 Samuel 16:14-23 – 17:1-58)

1 Samuel 16:1-23 – Principles of Preparation (Patiently Prepare to Be Used) God uses those that are ready to be used – those that faithfully serve where they are, and allow God to prepare them through the smaller things to do great things.)

1. God Sees You for What You Are (16:1-12) –

God measures your faithfulness and your heart (attitude), even when others do not even consider you as an option. *God is not bound nor influenced by the perspectives, attitudes, and assessments of the world. Are you faithfully serving where God has put you?*

2. God Knows Where You Are (16:13) – *God can find you when He needs you. He can call you when He's ready. Are you focusing on your tasks rather than focusing on being recognized?*

3. God Creates the Steps – *God knows how to create a need to place people where He wants them. Will you trust God to put you where He wants?*

4. God Uses Your "Now" to Get You Ready for "Later" (16:16-18) – *Do Not Discount Life's Tasks as Preparations for God's Future Plans – Are you faithfully learning and mastering what God has assigned to you now?*

5. God Knows How to Get Us Ready for Even Greater Tasks (16:19-23) – *Are you trusting in God's wisdom as He determines your circumstances? (or do you fight against His plans?) Do you understand that God's preparations are a journey, not an instant "zap?"*

1 Samuel 17:1-58 – Faithfully Follow

1. God Allows Trouble (Understand God's Plan) – 17:1-3

Ongoing Troubles Exist within the Scope of God's Plan (Often with the Ultimate Purpose to Reveal Himself). We should acknowledge God's control and receive troubles as God's sovereign plan, and the enemy's attempts to thwart God's purposes.

¹ Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which *belongs* to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. ² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. ³ The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

2. Enemies Are Real – 17:4-10

Know that Enemies Can Be Large and Daunting (They are not overblown or pretend. They are real!)

⁴ And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span. ⁵ *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶ And *he had* bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. ⁷ Now the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead *weighed* six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him. ⁸ Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them,

"Why have you come out to line up for battle? *Am I* not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall 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."

3. Reject Wrong Actions – 17:11

Do Not Let the Response of Others Wrongly Influence You (Often the larger group..., like in the Exodus)

¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

4. Ignore Wrong Treatment – 17:12-14

Do Not Let the World's Measure Stop You (cp 1 Sam 16:11 – not even invited to participate in the anointing of the new king)

¹² Now David *was* the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name *was* Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced *in years*, in the days of Saul. ¹³ The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle *were* Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. ¹⁴ David *was* the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.

5. See Yourself Clearly – 17:15

Do Not Let Privilege or Opportunity Ruin You (cp 1 Sam 16:1-13 – anointed to be king; 16:17-28 – Saul's music player and armor bearer)

¹⁵ But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

6. Ignore the Crowd – 17:16

Do Not Let the Lack of Action on the Part of Others Limit You

¹⁶ And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

7. Fulfill Your Duties – 17:17-22

Do Not Let God's Appointed Responsibilities Escape You (Again, God used every little detail of David's life to train him and position him for his future kingly role.) God does not just call us up for the big role, but he trains us in every little detail. (## - man wanting to be deacon but not faithful in his smaller role) – Faithful in little, faithful in much. David yielded to his father's authority, even though he knew that he would eventually be king!

David was diligent, rising early in the morning (reminds me of Abraham and offering Isaac). Eager to obey.

David still maintained his relationship with his brothers, even though he was anointed

to be king (humility, patience, timing).

¹⁷ Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried *grain* and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. ¹⁸ "And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of *their* thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them." ¹⁹ Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel *were* in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰ So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took *the things* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle. ²¹ For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army. ²² And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.

8. Let God Lead – 17:23

Count on God to Bring the Solution to the Problem in His Timing

²³ Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard *them*.

9. Expect Wrong Responses – 17:24

Do Not Let the Fears of Others Catch You Off Guard

²⁴ And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

10. Act on Truth (Not on Circumstances, Polls, or Feelings) – 17:25-26a

Respond Toward the Problem, Not Away from It (Choose Action Instead of Fear; Solution Rather than Spreading the Problem) The need is seen by many, even if they respond properly.

²⁵ So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be *that* the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption *from taxes* in Israel." ²⁶ Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?"

11. See the Sides – 17:26b

Recognize the True Sides of the Battle

For who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"