

## 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)

1. God Sees You for What You Are (16:1-12)
2. God Knows Where You Are (16:13)
3. God Creates the Steps
4. God Uses Your "Now" to Get You Ready for "Later" (16:16-18)
5. God Knows How to Get Us Ready for Even Greater Tasks (16:19-23)

1 Samuel 17:1-58 – Faithfully \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. God Allows \_\_\_\_\_ (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.

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_ – 17:4-10

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

<sup>10</sup> And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong Actions – 17:11

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

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

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

<sup>14</sup> David *was* the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.

### 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

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

### 6. \_\_\_\_\_ the Crowd – 17:16

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

<sup>16</sup> And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

### 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 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).

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> "And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of *their* thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."

### 8. Let God \_\_\_\_\_ – 17:23

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

<sup>23</sup> 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. \_\_\_\_\_ Wrong Responses – 17:24

**Do Not Let the Fears of Others Catch You Off Guard**

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

### 10. Act on \_\_\_\_\_ (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.

<sup>26</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_ – 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?"