

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

1 Samuel 16:1-13 – **Our Eyes Tell Lies** – God Sees Things Differently than We Do

- Our heart is BROKEN by Sin (We cannot see well).
- What we see may not be TRUE (Our Eyes Tell Lies)
- God Commands us to trust HIM, not our hearts or our eyes.

1 Samuel 16:1-23 – **Patiently Prepare (to Be Used)** – Principles of Preparation – 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** – Follow God No Matter What Is Going on Around You

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.
2. **Enemies Are Real** – 17:4-10 – **Know that Enemies Can Be Large and Daunting** (They are not overblown or pretend. They are real!)
3. **Reject Wrong Actions** – 17:11 – **Do Not Let the Response of Others Wrongly Influence You** (Often the larger group..., like in the Exodus)
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)
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)
6. **Ignore the Crowd** – 17:16 – Do Not Let the Lack of Action on the Part of Others Limit You
7. **Fulfill Your Duties** – 17:17-22 – **Do Not Let God's Appointed Responsibilities Escape You** – 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).
8. **Let God Lead** – 17:23 – **Count on God to Bring the Solution to the Problem in His Timing**
9. **Expect Wrong Responses** – 17:24 – **Do Not Let the Fears of Others Catch You Off Guard**
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.
11. **See the Sides** – 17:26b – **Recognize the True Sides of the Battle**

1 Samuel 17:27-51 – Eagerly Engage (Boldly Battle) Do All That You Can with What You Have & Leave the Results to God

1. **Expect Friendly Fire**

²⁷ And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him." ²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

Recognize that people will resist you for many wrong reasons (even those closest to you). Resistance may even include wrongful accusations about your motives (and qualifications?) regarding what you seek to do.

- Jealousy
- Ignorance
- Disagreement
- Disbelief
- Human perception apart from God (seeing with eyes not truth)

2. **Target Your Enemy (not Your Friends)**

²⁹ And David said, "What have I done now? *Is there not a cause?*" ³⁰ Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones *did*.

Keep your eyes focused on the true battle (not those resisting you). HARD...

3. **Be the Solution**

³¹ Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported *them* to Saul; and he sent for him. ³² Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

Make yourself available for great things. Don't be an arm chair quarterback. If you are not part of the solution, are you part of the problem? God is ready to use people who are ready to act upon His truth, rather than pointing out what cannot be done and why it cannot be done. Did God put me here for a reason (Esther? Daniel?)

4. **Trust God's Record (Trust God's previous successes)**

³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it. ³⁶ "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

Build your confidence on the previous faithful successes that God has given and on the strength of the lord (remembering that it is his battle).

5. **Reject Manmade Limits**

³⁸ So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested *them*." So David took them off.

Do not yield to the temptation of working within the methods defined by men (David acted upon what he had proven and trained).

6. Use Tested Skills

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

Use what you know and have been faithful in developing (and leave the results to God).

7. Expect Enemy Trouble

⁴¹ So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield *went* before him. ⁴² And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking. ⁴³ So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

Don't expect the enemy to think you a worthy opponent (or worthy of his time) – by the way, you are not a worthy opponent - God is! Do not fear or be discouraged by the talk of the enemy. They will seek to intimidate you (and to get you to look at your own human limitations! They are not the basis of your victory!).

8. Speak for God

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."

You represent God and His purposes, not your own. Verbally Express Your Representation of God and Confidence in God's Strength. Your purpose is not self-glory but the glorification of God. God is not hindered by any weapon.

9. Fight the Enemy (Eagerly Engage)

⁴⁸ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung *it* and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

Take the offense with confidence, using what you have learned. David ran toward the enemy, when the army of Israel cowered. No army has won by defense alone.

10. Let God Win

⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But *there was* no sword in the hand of David.

Trust God to use what you have. God is looking for people to stand for Him. **God has the means to win.** David was there doing what he knew how to do. He showed up willing to fight with what he had to offer. God did the rest.

11. Finish the Job

^{51a} Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. Don't quit before you've done what needs to be done.

Decisively complete what you have started. Do not celebrate at the wrong time or before the job is completed.