

Facing Your Giants – Take Goliath Down

2 Samuel 21:15-22

INTRODUCTION:

Our Goliath is always stalking us. We need to focus on God, not on our giant problem.

He vies for the bedside position, hoping to be the first voice you hear. He covets your waking thoughts, those early, pillow-born emotions. He awakes you with words of worry, stirs you with thoughts of stress. If you dread the day before you begin your day, mark it down: your giant has been by your bed. He goes with you through the day. He says: “You haven’t got what it takes.” “You come from a long line of losers.”

He’s your giant . . . your Goliath. Given half a chance, he’ll turn your day into his Valley of Elah, taunting . . . teasing . . . boasting . . . and echoing claims from one hillside to the other.

Goliaths still roam our world. Debt . . . Disaster . . . Dialysis . . . Danger . . . Deceit . . . Disease . . . Depression. Super-size challenges still swagger and strut, still pilfer sleep and embezzle peace and liposuction joy. But they can’t dominate you. You know how to deal with them. You face giants by facing God first

You know what David knew, and you do what David did. You pick up five stones, and you make five decisions.

I. THE STONE OF THE PAST

Goliath jogged David’s memory. Elah was a déjà vu. While everyone else quivered, David remembered. God had given him strength to wrestle a lion and strong-arm a bear. Wouldn’t He do the same with the giant (1 Sam. 17:34-36)?

A good memory makes heroes. A bad memory makes wimps. “Remember His marvelous works which He has done” (1 Chronicles 16:12). Catalog God’s successes. Keep a list of his world records. Has he not walked you through high waters? Proven to be faithful? Have you not known his provision? How many nights have you gone to bed hungry? How many mornings have you awakened in the cold? He has made roadkill out of your enemies. **Write today’s worries**

in sand. Chisel yesterday’s victories in stone. Pick up the stone of the past.

Then select . . .

II. THE STONE OF PRAYER

Before going high, David went low; before ascending to fight, David descended to prepare. Don’t face your giant without first doing the same. Dedicate time to prayer. Paul, the apostle, wrote: “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (**Ephesians 6:18**).

Prayer spawned David’s successes. His Brook Besor wisdom grew out of the moment he “strengthened himself in the Lord his God” (**1 Samuel 30:6**). When Saul’s soldiers tried to capture him, David turned toward God: “you have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble” (**Psalms 59:16**).

How do you survive a fugitive life in the caves? David did with prayers like this one: “Be good to me, God – and now! I’ve run to you for dear life. I’m hiding out under your wings until the hurricane blows over. I call out to High God, the God who holds me together” (**Psalms 57:1-2**).

When David soaked his mind in God, he stood. When he didn’t, he flopped. You think he spent much time in prayer the evening he seduced Bathsheba? Did he write a psalm the day he murdered Uriah? Doubtful . . . Very doubtful.

Remember **Isaiah 26:3** “You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you . . .” God promises not just peace but perfect peace. Undiluted, unspotted, unhindered peace. To whom? To those whose minds are “fixed” on God. Forget occasional glances. Dismiss random ponderings. Peace is promised to the one who fixes thoughts and desires on the king.

Invite God’s help. Pick up the stone of prayer. And don’t neglect . . .

III. THE STONE OF PRIORITY

Remember your highest priority: God’s reputation. David jealously guarded it. No one was going to defame his Lord. David fought so that “all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...for the battle is the Lord’s” (**1 Samuel 17:46-47**).

David saw Goliath as a chance for God to show off! Did David know he would

exit the battle alive? **No. But he was willing to give his life for the reputation of God.**

What if you saw your giant in the same manner? Rather than begrudge him, welcome him. Your cancer is God’s chance to flex his healing muscles . Your sin is God’s opportunity to showcase grace. Your struggling marriage can billboard God’s power. See your struggle as God’s canvas. On it he will paint his multicolored supremacy.

Announce God’s name and then reach for . . .

IV. THE STONE OF PASSION

David ran, not from, but toward his giant. (1 Sam. 17:48) On one side of the battlefield, Saul and his cowardly army gulped. On the other, Goliath and his skull-splitters scoffed. In the middle, the shepherd boy ran on his spindly legs. Who bet on David? Who believed in the kid from Bethlehem? Not the Philistines. Not the Hebrews. Not David’s siblings or David’s king. **But God did.**

And since God did, and since David knew God did, the skinny runt became a blur of pumping knees and a swirling sling. He ran toward his giant.

Do the same! What good has problem pondering got you? You’ve stared so long you can number the hairs on Goliath’s chest. Has it helped?

No. Listing hurts won’t heal them. Itemizing problems won’t solve them. Categorizing rejections won’t remove them. David lobotomized the giant because he emphasized the Lord.

Remember, take up the stone of passion. There remains one more stone. It is the . . .

III. THE STONE OF PERSISTENCE

David didn’t think one rock would do. He knew that Goliath had four behemoth relatives. “...Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels” (2 Samuel 21:16). Saph made the list, described as “one of the sons of the giant” (2 Samuel 21:18). Then there was another, “the brother of Goliath, the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam” (2 Samuel 21:19). These three seem harmless compared to

King Kong. Another giant “had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant” (2 Samuel 21:20).

Why did David quarry a quintet of stones? Could it be because Goliath had four relatives the size of Tyrannosaurus rex? For all David knew, they’d come running over the hill to defend their kin. David was ready to empty the chamber if that’s what it took.

Imitate him. Never give up. One prayer might not be enough. One apology might not do it. One day or month of resolve might not suffice. You may get knocked down a time or two . . . but don’t quit. Keep loading the rocks. Keep swinging the sling.

David took five stones. He made five decisions. Do likewise . . . Past. Prayer . . . Priority . . . Passion . . . And persistence.

Next time Goliath wakes you up, reach for a stone. Odds are, he’ll be out of the room before you can load your sling.

CONCLUSION:

To take down the giants in your life, remember:

- 1. The stone of the PAST**
- 2. The stone of PRAYER**
- 3. The stone of PRIORITY**
- 4. The stone of PASSION**
- 5. The stone of PERSISTENCE**

Take a moment to answer this question. Do you call Jesus Savior and Lord? Perhaps you never have. Perhaps you never knew how much Christ loves you. Now you do. God did not disown David. He forgave David . . . He loved David . . . He led David. He won’t disown you. He simply awaits your invitation. One word from you, and God will do again what he did with David and millions like him. He will claim you, save you, and use you.

When you render obedience to God, know this . . . Your greatest Goliath will have fallen. Your failures are gone and death destroyed. The power that made pygmies out of David’s giants has done the same with yours. How about it?

God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation