

2—A Giant’s View of David: Despising David’s Youth

Text: 1 Samuel 17

The account of David and Goliath is a familiar one to many people. We have heard this Biblical narrative used as an analogy not only in terms of our spiritual battles but even in the sports world, the legal world, and the corporate world. Yet, today, the lessons we want to take from this inspiring account are lessons we can apply to our spiritual lives.

You see, there are times we can allow the views of others to slow us down on our spiritual track. Sometimes, these spoken or perceived views create self-doubt within us and cause us to be very hesitant to move forward and make any progress. What kind of views are we talking about?

Ever thought to yourself,

- “I’m too young”
- “I’m not smart enough”
- “I’m not experienced enough”
- “I’ve done too many bad things in the past.”

As we think these types of thoughts to ourselves we begin to use them as excuses to do nothing. When we allow ourselves to do nothing, we allow all of our doubters and self-doubts to claim victory over us. In the spiritual realm, God does not want us to be people of doubt and self-defeat, but people of victory. For that reason, David and Goliath are inspiring texts. David had numerous voices in his ear telling him why he would not succeed. *Yet, David allowed his faith in God to be the loudest voice of all and it moved him forward to victory!*

Discussion Questions:

1. What do we know about Goliath when we read his description in 1 Samuel 17:1-10? How does he make “all Israel” feel as they hear of his challenge (1 Samuel 17:11, 24)? How do you feel when you perceive someone is bigger, stronger, or smarter?

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2. Why does David feel as though Goliath's challenges are unwarranted (1 Samuel 17:26)? What is David's response to his taunts and what does David want to do (1 Samuel 17:32)?

3. List the people who discourage David from trying to go to battle with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:28-31, 33, 41-44). What would such a long list of doubters often do to the self-confidence of an individual?

David's Doubters

- Eliab (1 Samuel 17:28)
- Others (1 Samuel 17:30)
- King Saul (1 Samuel 17:33)
- Goliath (1 Samuel 17:42-43)

4. Why does David have confidence he can defeat Goliath (1 Samuel 17:26, 34-37, 45-47)? Did David need Saul's armor to win the battle for God or could God use David's abilities and resources to perform this divine task (17:38-40, 48-51)? What lessons are there for us in this truth?

5. How does this change the way the doubters of David view him (17:51-52)? How does Paul tell Timothy he can change people's minds who may "*despise his youth*" (1 Timothy 4:12-13)?

Key Lessons:

- We cannot allow ourselves to become depressed or discouraged by others' low opinions of us.
- Small successes can lay the groundwork for bigger victories! So, continue moving forward one small victory at a time.
- Be decisive for God and He can reverse the battlefield in your favor!

Additional Notes: _____
