

Sermon Title: **"OVERCOMING THE 'GOLIATH' OF OUR LIFE!"**

Sermon Text: **1 SAMUEL 17**

Introduction:

GOOD MORNING TO ALL! THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY! AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL YOU WHO ARE JOINING US FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY IN OUR SUNDAY SERVICE CELEBRATION.

AS I'VE SHARED LAST WEEK, WE ACTUALLY FACING MULTIPLE "GIANTS" OF A CRISIS TODAY – THE GIANT OF COVID-19, THE GIANT OF RACISM, & THE GIANT OF FATHERLESSNESS IN OUR SOCIETY. AND AS I REFLECT ON THESE MULTIPLE CRISIS THAT WE ARE FACING TODAY AS A NATION, THE LORD REMINDED ME OF THE STORY OF DAVID BATTLING & DEFEATING THE GIANT GOLIATH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. I BELIEVE THIS STORY WAS INTENTIONALLY & SOVEREIGNLY INCLUDED IN THE BIBLE TO REMIND US, PEOPLE OF GOD, AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT WE ARE CALLED & DESTINED BY GOD TO BE GIANT SLAYERS! BY THE LORD'S GRACE & POWER, YOU & I CAN OVERCOME THE "GOLIATHS" OF OUR LIFE!

LET US PRAY!!!

PASSAGE BACKGROUND. FOR THOSE JOINING US FOR THE FIRST TIME & THOSE THAT ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH OUR TEXT/STORY THIS MORNING, LET ME JUST GIVE A LITTLE BACKGROUND TO OUR TEXT. SAUL HAS JUST BECOME THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL AFTER THEY REQUESTED THE PROPHET SAMUEL TO GIVE THEM A KING JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE NATIONS AROUND THEM. SAUL STARTED GOOD & HAS LED THE ISRAELITES IN SUBDUING THEIR ENEMY, THE PHILISTINES. IN OUR TEXT TODAY, THE ISRAELITES WERE FACING AGAIN THE PHILISTINES AND THIS TIME, THE PHILISTINES ARE IN THE ADVANTAGE BECAUSE THEY HAVE AT THIS TIME ON THEIR SIDE THE GIANT GOLIATH FROM GATH.

GOLIATH, A GIANT OF A MAN HAS BEGAN CHALLENGING THE ISRAELITE ARMY TO A CHAMPION'S DUEL. A CHAMPION'S DUEL IS BASICALLY A "WINNER TAKES IT ALL" DUEL. IF GOLIATH WINS,

THE ISRAELITES WILL SURRENDER & BECOME THEIR SERVANTS, BUT IF ISRAEL'S CHAMPION WILL WIN, THE PHILISTINE ARMY WILL SURRENDER & BECOME THEIR SERVANTS. FOR FORTY DAYS THIS GOLIATH WOULD COME BEFORE THE ARMY OF THE ISRAEL & CHALLENGE ANYONE FOR A CHAMPION'S DUEL BUT NO ONE DARED TO ANSWER HIS CHALLENGE. THIS WAS THE SITUATION WHEN DAVID CAME TO THE ISRAELITRES' CAMP & HE HIMSELF HEARD GOLIATH'S CHALLENGE TO THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL.

AS WE STUDY OUR PASSAGE THIS MORNING, THERE ARE THREE (3) IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES THAT WE CAN DERIVE FROM IT WHICH I THINK ARE THE KEYS TO OVERCOMING THE "GOLIATHS" OF OUR LIFE!

A. WE ARE TO SPIRITUALLY DISCERN OUR ENEMY, OUR GOLIATH!

TAKE NOTE THAT FROM OUR PASSAGE, WE LEARN THAT DAVID HAS SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED HIS ENEMY! TO DISCERN IS TO RECOGNIZE, TO PERCEIVE. DAVID KNOWS WHO IS HIS ENEMY, GOLIATH & THAT HE IS A LIAR. HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING & THE STRATEGY THAT HE IS USING TO DEMORALIZE GOD'S PEOPLE.

1) Goliath is intimidating the whole army of Israel!

"Then a champion named Goliath, from Gath, came out from the Philistine camp. He was nine feet, nine inches tall and wore a bronze helmet and bronze scale armor that weighed one hundred twenty-five pounds. There was bronze armor on his shins, and a bronze javelin was slung between his shoulders. His spear shaft was like a weaver's beam, and the iron point of his spear weighed fifteen pounds. In addition, a shield-bearer was walking in front of him." (vv. 4-7)

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT FROM THE SIZE & LOOKS OF GOLIATH HE IS IN FACT A VERY INTIMIDATING ENEMY!

2) Goliath is instilling fear in the people's heart!

"He stood and shouted to the Israelite battle formations, "Why do you come out to line up in battle formation?" He asked them, "Am I not

a Philistine and are you not servants of Saul? Choose one of your men and have him come down against me. If he wins in a fight against me and kills me, we will be your servants. But if I win against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us.” Then the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me a man so we can fight each other!” ***When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.*** (vv. 8-11)

A VERY EFFECTIVE STRATEGY THAT WE SEE GOLIATH IS USING TO DEMORALIZE THE ISARELITE ARMY IS TERRIFYING WORDS! HE IS MAKING A MENTAL PICTURE OF THEM FACING HIM ONE-ON-ONE & HE IS MAKING THEM IMAGINE HOW ONE-SIDED & PATHETIC IS THEIR SITUATION. AND GOLIATH IS SUCCEEDING IN TORMENTING THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD.

BUT THERE’S ANOTHER THING THAT GOLIATH IS DOING THAT IS REALLY AFFECTING THE NERVES OF THE PEOPLE & DAVID RECOGNIZED THIS IN VERSE 26...

3) Goliath is ***insulting*** the army of the Lord their God!

“David spoke to the men who were standing with him: “What will be done for the man who kills that Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (v. 26)

RELATED TO THE FIRST TWO, GOLIATH IS INSULTING THE LORD’S ARMY BY MOCKING OR INSULTING THEM.

BUT TAKE NOTE THAT DAVID KNOWS HIS ENEMY & HAS DISCERNED HIS TACTICS & SCHEMES! HE KNOWS HOW HE IS WORKING IN THE HEARTS OF GOD’S PEOPLE. HE KNOWS ALSO KNOWS HE IS BIG BUT HE IS NOT INVINCIBLE BUT BEATABLE. DAVID ALSO KNOWS THAT HE IS USING HIS SIZE & HIS LOOKS OR APPEARANCE TO INTIMIDATE & INSTILL FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF GOD’S PEOPLE & HE IS FURTHER DISCOURAGING THEM BY INSULTING THEM BEFORE THEIR FACES.

CHURCH/FRIENDS, LET US FEAR THE LORD ALONE & NO ONE ELSE! (Matt. 10: 28). BUT BECAUSE DAVID HAS DISCERNED HIS ENEMY, HE STOOD UP TO HIS CHALLENGE & ASK KING SAUL TO ALLOW HIM TO FACE HIM IN A DUEL. AS WE LISTEN TO DAVID'S CONVERSATION WITH SAUL, IT WILL REVEAL TO US THE SECOND IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE IN OVERCOMING OUR GOLIATHS!

B. WE ARE TO PERSONALLY KNOW THE LORD, OUR GOD!

TAKE NOTE THAT WHEN HIS FELLOW ISRAELITES WERE COMPARING THEMSELVES WITH GOLIATH, DAVID WAS COMPARING GOLIATH TO HIS GOD! WHEN THEY WERE IMAGINING WHAT GOLIATH CAN DO TO THEM, DAVID WAS THINKING OF WHAT THE LORD CAN DO TO THIS GOLIATH! THIS CLEARLY SHOWS US THAT DAVID KNEW HIS GOD! THERE ARE TWO WAYS IN WHICH DAVID PERSONALLY KNEW THE LORD.

1) David cognitively knows WHO the Lord is!

Then David said, “The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” (v. 37)

David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with a sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel—you have defied him. (v. 45)

DAVID HERE USES TWO NAMES FOR HIS GOD - THE LORD & THE LORD ALMIGHTY OR THE LORD OF ARMIES/HOSTS.

a. “LORD” – This is name refers to YAHWEH, the transliteration of the covenant name of God He gave Moses, “I AM.” This name expresses the true & complete “I AM” nature of the Lord, both His sovereign & divine nature. This name means the He is the Creator & Lord of all!

b. “LORD ALMIGHTY OR LORD OF ARMIES” – This name refers to the supreme authority & power of the Lord as the Commander-in-chief of Israel's army and beyond this, heaven's army!

AS WE LOOK DEEPER INTO THESE NAMES THAT DAVID USED TO REFER TO HIS GOD, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE KNEW WHO HIS GOD IS. THIS ALSO IMPLIES THAT DAVID IS NOT JUST A NORMAL JEW OR ISRAELITE WHO KNOWS THE TORAH, BUT HE IS ONE WHO BELIEVES IT & CONTINUES TO PERSONALLY APPLY ITS TRUTHS IN HIS DAILY LIVING AS WE SHALL SEE IN A BIT AS WE LOOK AT THE THIRD & LAST PRINCIPLE.

2) *David experientially knows **WHAT** the Lord can do for His people!*

a. *David recognizes the Lord as his personal **DELIVERER**!*

*David answered Saul, “Your servant has been tending his father’s sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth... Then David said, “**The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.**” (vv. 34-37)*

DAVID RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS THE LORD WHO DELIVERS HIM FROM PAWS OF THESE WILD ANIMALS & IT IS NOT HIS OWN STRENGTH & WISDOM!

b. *David recognizes the Lord as the **FIGHTER/WARRIOR** who fights His people’s battles!*

*“Today, the Lord will hand you over to me. Today, I’ll strike you down, remove your head, and give the corpses of the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the wild creatures of the earth. **Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the Lord saves, for the battle is the Lord’s. He will hand you over to us.**” (vv. 46-47)*

DAVID RECOGNIZES THAT THEIR BATTLE IS THE LORD & HE WILL FIGHT THEIR BATTLES AS THEY FULLY TRUST IN HIM & IN HIS PRESENCE IN THEIR LIVES! CHURCH/FRIENDS, THE MORE WE KNOW OUR GOD, THE MORE WE WILL BE CONFIDENT IN THE BATTLE! (Dan. 11:32)

THEREFORE, IT IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO DISCERN OUR ENEMY. WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHO IS OUR GOD & WHAT HE CAN DO FOR US! THE WORD OF GOD IS CLEAR THAT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS A PERSONAL GOD, A COVENANT-MAKING GOD! A GOD WHO WANTS TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU & ME AND THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN THROUGH OUR UNION WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. AS WE ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AS OUR SAVIOR & LORD!

C. WE ARE TO TRUSTINGLY FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITY!

AS SHOWN IN OUR STORY, DAVID DID NOT WIN HIS BATTLE SITTING DOWN OR DOING NOTHING! DAVID DID NOT JUST KNOW WHO THE LORD IS & WHAT HE CAN DO FOR HIS PEOPLE. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WE HAVE TO DO OR FULFILL OR OBEY IN ORDER TO SEE THE POWERFUL INTERVENTION OR MIGHTY WORKS OF THE LORD IN OUR LIFE. In THIS STORY, WE SEE TWO IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY THAT DAVID DID OR FULFILLED!

1) David personally trusts in the Lord & His promises in His Word!

Then David said, “The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” (v. 37)

“How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” (Psalm 1: 1-3)

“This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.” (v. 8)

OBSERVE THAT DAVID TAKES TO HEART THE WORD OF THE LORD! HE BELIEVES IT & PRACTICES IT OR APPLIES IT IN HIS DAILY LIVING.

2) David faithfully **takes advantage** of his **God-given abilities & opportunities** & **uses** them for the Lord's honor & glory!

What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, so he had David brought to him. David said to Saul, "**Don't let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!**"
(v. 31)

David answered Saul, "Your servant has been tending his father's sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it. **Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.**" (vv. 34-36)

DAVID TELLS SAUL THAT EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A YOUTH, HE HAS THE **ABILITIES & EXPERIENCE** OF BATTLING WITH WILD ANIMALS & THAT THE LORD DELIVERED THEM HIM FROM THEM. AND SO, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE LORD WILL DELIVER HIM FROM GOLIATH WHO DEFIED THE ARMIES OF LORD!

DAVID SOMEHOW KNEW THAT THE LORD'S DESIRE IS TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT ISRAEL HAS A GOD & HE IS YAHWEH, THE LORD ALMIGHTY, & IS ALSO THE LORD OF THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL!

C. **PRACTICAL POINTERS:**

- IN FACING YOUR GOLIATHS, BE **P.R.O.-ACTIVE!**

CHURCH/FRIENDS, AS WE FACE OUR GOLIATH, REMEMBER THIS, BE **P.R.O.-ACTIVE!**

- a. **PRAY ALWAYS!**(Phil. 4:6-7). PRAYER IS OUR MOST POWERFUL THING THSAT WE CAN DO IN THE MIDST OF A CRISIS OR WHEN

FACING A GOLIATH! PRAYER OR PRAYING IMPLIES THAT WE KNOW THE FATHER BECAUSE PRAYING IS RECOGNIZING THE LORD AS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. THIS ALSO MEANS THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE LORD JESUS AS OUR SAVIOR BECAUSE ONLY THRU HIM CAN OUR PRAYER BE HEARD BY THE FATHER. PRAYING IS POWERFUL BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATE HUMILITY & FULL DEPENDENCE ON THE FATHER TO INTERVENE IN OUR BEHALF. IT IS TRUSTING HIS PRESENCE & POWER IN OUR LIFE!

- b. **RESIST THE DEVIL!** REMEMBER THAT OUR TRUE ENEMIES ARE NOT FLESH & BLOOD BUT **THE DEVIL, THE WORLD, & THE FLESH!** OUR ENEMIES ARE **NOT FLESH & BLOOD BUT SPIRITUAL FORCES** LED BY THE DEVIL! (Eph. 6: 10-18). IF WE HAVE A PERSONAL ENEMY LIKE DAVID, A GOLIATH, THEN THE DEVIL OR HIS SPIRITUAL FORCES ARE WORKING IN HIS LIFE TO CAUSE US TO FALL OR SIN. THEREFORE, BE WISE & DISCERNING! REMEMBER THAT OUR BATTLES CAN BE WON THROUGH ON OUR KNEES!
- c. **OBEY** THE LORD'S COMMANDS! (PS. 1:3; Jos. 1:8). THE GOAL OF OUR ENEMY, OUR GOLIATH IN TO MAKE US DOUBT THE GOODNESS & LOVE OF OUR GOD & TO MAKE US DISOBEY HIM. LIKE DANIEL & HIS FRIENDS, LET US RESOLVE TO OBEY THE LORD'S COMMANDS EVEN IF ITS DIFFICULT TO DO! REMEMBER THAT OUR SUCCESS & PROSPERITY AS A BELIEVER DEPENDS ON OUR OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD. THE QUESTION IS - ARE WE **GROWING** IN THE **GRACE & KNOWLEDGE** OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST? ARE WE DISCIPLINING OURSELVES IN THE HABIT OF READING & MEDITATING HIS WORD? ARE WE BEING **MENTORED OR DISCIPLINED** IN THE WORD? ARE WE MENTORING & HELPING SOMEONE NEW IN THE FAITH IN THE WORD? REMEMBER THAT EVEN AN APOLLOS NEEDED AN AQUILA & PRISCILLA TO MENTOR HIM IN THE FAITH! (ACTS 18:24-27)

***"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I will reject you from serving as my priest.
Since you have forgotten the law of your God,***

I will also forget your sons.” (Hosea 4: 6)

CLOSING CHALLENGE:

PERHAPS, THERE ARE SOME OF YOU WHO ARE HERE OR WATCHING IN THEIR HOMES THAT PRESENTLY FACING YOUR GOLIATH? WHETHER IT IS A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION OR SICKNESS OR FINANCIAL FIX OR RELATIONSHIP PROBLEM, REMEMBER WHO OUR GOD IS – HE IS YAHWEH, THE LORD & HE IS THE GOD OF THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL. HE PROMISED TO BE OUR DELIVERER & TO FIGHT OUR EVERY BATTLE!

HE PROMISED TO BE WITH US & NEVER TO ABANDON NOR FORSAKE US. REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID TO HIS PEOPLE, “HE WHO KNOWS THEIR GOD SHALL BE STRONG & ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS FOR THE LORD!

AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO BELIEVE, TO TRUST THE LORD & HIS WORD! THAT HE WILL INDEED INTERVENE & FIGHT OUR BATTLES! AND WE ARE MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE DILIGENTLY FULFILLING OUR PART BY DELIGHTING OURSELVES IN HIM & OBEYING HIS COMMANDS.

CHURCH/FRIENDS, BY THE LORD GRACE & HELP, OUR GOLIATH WILL FALL! WE ARE GOING TO OVERCOME HIM! MAY THE LORD OUR GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

CLOSING PRAYER:

“OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR THE STORY OF DAVID & GOLIATH, REMINDING US OF YOUR PRESENCE & POWER IN OUR LIFE. THANK YOU FOR REMINDING US OF WHO YIOU ARE & WHAT YOU CAN DO IN OUR LIFE. THAT YOU ARE THE “LORD”, THE SOVEREIGN LORD, THE CREATOR & LORD OF THIS UNIVERSE. THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF HEAVENS ARMY.

FATHER GOD, THSBNK YOU FOR THE ASSURANCE OF VICTORY RECONIZING THAT YOU ARE OUR WARRIOR, THE ONE WHO FIGHTS OUR BATTLES. LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE GREST

PRIOVILEGE THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US TO BE A PART OF YOUR WORK IN THIS EARTH OF SAVING PEOPLE & BUILDING YOUR KINGDOM.

FATHER GOD, MAKE US PRO-ACTIVE BECAUSE ARE ENEMIES ARE REAL & THAT WE ARE IN AN UNSEEN WARFARE. TEACH TO PRAYING ALWAYS. TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES FROM ALL THE WILES, SCHEMES, ATTACKS OF THE EVIL ONE. TO RESIST THE DEVIL & HIS FORCES WHOSE DESIRE IS OUR DOWNFALL & BE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO GOD'S CAUSE. FATHER GOD, MAKE OBEDIENT PEOPLE! MOLD US TO BE KEEN STUDENTS OF YOUR WORD & DOERS OF YOUR WORD. HELP US TO ESTABLISH THIS GODLY HABIT OF RESDING & MEDITATING ON YOUR WORD & TO PRAYER & FELLOWSHIPPING/CHURCH LIFE.

FATHER GOD, AS WE STRENGTHEN OUTSELVES IN YOUR WOTRD & PRAYER, GIVE US THE GRACE & POWER DAILY TO FIGHT OUR GOLIATHS & GLORIFY YOU BY OUR VICTORY. FATHER, TEACH US TO FULLY TRUST & OBEY YOU & GLORIFY YOU IN ALL THAT WE DO. ALL THIS WE PRAY IN JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS NANE! AMEN!!!

IF THERE'S A
GOLIATH
IN FRONT OF YOU,
THAT MEANS THERE'S
A **DAVID**
INSIDE OF YOU!