

To the Saints of God at Topeka, Kansas

December 16, 2018

David and Goliath, Part 5

1 Samuel 17:12 ¶ Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul. 13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. Jesse was an elderly man (“stricken in years”), he was exempt from public service and instead sent his sons (20 years and up) to war as was required.

14 And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. 15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem. This clearly seems to state as was earlier noted that David had previously been called to court to be Saul’s musician and armourbearer but now he was relieved of that duty to help his family. He would have been at Saul’s call, but for now he was able to be at home for a season. It is interesting to note that there is no mention that David was high-minded, objecting to condescend to leave the King’s court and once again fulfill the role of a lowly shepherd in a relatively poor house in Israel.

1 Sam 18:23 suggests that David was poor. And Saul’s servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king’s son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

Can you imagine going from the court of a king, where you eat the best food, have the best drink, and have the best finery of clothes and direct access to important people and where you are someone; and then you go back to your humble beginnings, back on the farm – where you have none of that!? It is a wonderful thing beloved when you find someone that is just willing to do whatever is needed at any given time (without pride, selfishness, ambition and without complaint). We need people to just do whatever is asked of them at any given time, without attitude and pushback even if the job is lowly

and humble. That is a great gift, given by God, making for a gracious person, and that is always a welcome response! A person like that has great value to God, the church, and the person's brethren. God is important and to be praised and followed, not us. Doing something begrudgingly is not doing it with the right spirit, you might as well not do it at all.

Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

This is not an academic discussion that can be debated. This is not part of the "buffet" of God that you can choose some of this and some of that. Everyday, everyday, everyday we all need without exception a hefty dose of humility – of reality that we are absolutely nothing, have nothing, and are wounds and bruises and putrefying sores.

Re 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked (that was spoken of the church at Laodicea – the lukewarm church, but it also was us and could be us, and it is this generation, in spades):

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

We need to all remember that we, without exception, every single one of us, are just servants.

Eph 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Php 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Ps 138:6 Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Pr 3:34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

Pr 11:2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Pr 16:19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

16 And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

Twice a day Goliath came to dare, taunt and badger the Israelites. The expositors say he did it at these times to disrupt their prayers and religious service to God. He undoubtedly said many other things to needle and provoke the Israelites. Eighty times he presented himself before the Armies of the Living God to defy them. Beloved, forty days is a lot of days. It is a lot of days to be vexed, harassed and humiliated by your enemy.

17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; 18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

In the providence of God, Jesse sent David to the battlefield. Jesse did not send his four older sons who were still at home. Why, do you suppose Jesse sent David to do this errand when he could have sent one of the older brothers? David was just the delivery boy. The Lord also gave me eight sons. It may have been that he had more important

**JUST
DO
IT**

things for the older boys. But, I suspect he chose David because he knew David would just do it, with no pushback or complaining and he knew it would get done fast and he would have a good report when he finished the task. Communication is important. We now have the best technology for



communicating that is or has been known to man, but it is WORTHLESS unless people are willing to use it. When you get a text, respond to it when you get it. Reading is at 7:00 – *Great – I will be there.* I have one person I communicate with often and they always respond to every text I send. They let me know right then usually that they got the text and their response, even if one is not expressly asked for. Nice!

Jesse had confidence in David. Jesse sends quite a bit of food (grain, and bread) at David's hand to his brothers. Gill says it was a lot of food. Jesse was worried for his boys because the war had stretched out so long and he was concerned that their food was rationed and they weren't eating enough so this is why he sends David. Gill says that battle was about 4 miles away and Jesse bid him to run to the camp. He wants him to make haste and report back quickly how the battle is going and how his brothers are faring and whether they are dead, alive or wounded. War is bloody business and forty-days is a long time to be gone. And, it should be clearly noted that David did not go to the battle front to satisfy his curiosity or for any other reason than to lug all that food to his thankless brothers at the behest and request of his old father. Jesse sends the ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand. Jarchi says this is none other than... Jonathan. I hope that is true. The gifts were meant to buy his boys a little favor.

19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a

keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

David rose up early in the morning. He was industrious and motivated. He didn't wait to have fun and entertain himself and go later in the day. He didn't sleep in and get some X Box in. These are important distinctions. He got up early and pursued his work diligently. He did exactly what his father bade him to do without deviation or complaint.

Mt 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The Lord God appreciates and expects obedience! *1 Sam 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected.*

De 5:10 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Do you take pride on being a “maverick,” or a “rebel?” Do you take pride in being less than fully motivated, lazy and tending toward procrastination? I hope not. That is sinful. *Col. 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.* Heartily – means truly, happily and with vigor. It does not mean begrudgingly or by necessity.

De 11:26-28 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Obedience to God is a good thing. Part of that obedience to God, is happy obedience to your father and to your mother. It is recognition that the Lord and the Lord alone sets your position and circumstances in life and that you are content with them.

21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. 22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. David arrives just in time to see his brethren preparing to go to battle. He leaves the things he brought (the bread and cheeses) and runs into the army and onto the battle field. He is brave and courageous and interested in the important matters at hand and God's hand in it.

23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. 24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

So up comes Goliath to engage in more trash talking against God's people. Goliath left the confines of his own army and now approaches the Israelites in the valley. The men of Israel flee before him – they want nothing to do with this giant. They are sore afraid – and have great fear and astonishment. They back away with their tails between their legs. They were timorous and fainthearted. They literally backed up to flee from before him.

25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

This is all anyone is talking about, particularly when someone new from outside the camp came in. The whole army of the Israelites were very fearful. Re 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Mark 4:39 *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

De 31:6 *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

Mt 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

The servants of God are not cowards, they show faith in God and courage to do what needs to be done.

1Ch 28:20 *And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.*

This “makes his father’s house free in Israel” (1Sam 17:25) means free from all tributes, taxes, levies, impositions, king’s service, and duty; or, as the Targum renders it, “*make his father’s house freemen, nobles*”; raise his father’s house to the rank of nobility and “gentlemen.” And the king will throw in his daughter as well and you will be rich.

26 *And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.*

David is confirming that no one else is going to face this giant and he is saying that he has an inclination to fight Goliath. David properly frames the matter from a spiritual perspective like this: we have a heathen and profane Philistine blaspheming God, bringing a reproach to Israel and the One True God and his mouth must be stopped.

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Ps 63:11 But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

Eliab can hear the mild rebuke from David against all the army and himself for not having the courage and faith in God to engage Goliath. Here is the right perspective: Eliab, it is true – just own it – David is 100% correct. Eliab is wearing his pride and arrogance out on this sleeve. And now Eliab goes on offense and poses a pejorative, insulting, rhetorical question to David minimizing his work by the question about where the “few” sheep are so as to put David in his place in front of this multitude. This appears to all be happening in public. Then Eliab embellishes that charge and just flat out states that David is full of pride, up to no good, is naughty (like a young child) and he came to the battle to satisfy his curiosity. All of which was and is factually untrue, and he knows it – hence the grocery delivery David just made. Also, jealousy is rearing its ugly head. Eliab was the eldest brother and when Jesse was not around, Eliab would most likely be in charge as the oldest. As the eldest he is going to try and boss David around and shame him into submission. In addition, Eliab knows that 1) David has been anointed King (and not himself) and 2) David had served time at the King's court and far outshined him, by the gifts and the very hand of God, and he is not happy about these things. The true character of his older, meaner brother shines forth. Like in other instances in the Bible, the “elder shall serve the younger” here.

29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? 30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

David does not render evil for evil here. He refrains from attacking Eliab and goes back to the spiritual argument, that being, that there is a just cause here for God. He refuses to engage in a fruitless argument with his brother. There is no time for this – he has a giant to attend to! David knows that this is wrong behavior to keep allowing this man of Belial to essentially blaspheme The Living God and David is not going to back down on this. David might feel in his modesty that he has no audience with the king (though he probably does), so his tact it to stir up the people so they bring it to Saul – which is exactly what the people do.

31 ¶ And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. 32 And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. So, David now has an audience with the King, probably in the King's military pavilion or tent. David leads with what is at stake and notice that he calls himself Saul's **servant**. What are we? Servants. He sees himself as a servant doing something that needs to be done. He is not talking about the reward or anything that King Saul can do for him. David is not talking about ambition or promoting himself in anyway. David has a righteous heart. He is saying to Saul, send me, do not send anyone else. I am good for this to take away the reproach of our God.

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. 34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

So, King Saul, as the essential man of the flesh tries to talk David out of what he thinks is a “fool’s errand.” He thinks David has a worthy heart, but he cannot match Goliath in any degree: weaponry, combat experience, girth, power, fortitude, strength, weight, etc. And, since David is a youth, David tends toward rash behavior without taking into

account all of the consequences. But no worries, David knows what he is about. He answers Saul wisely here. He gives a credible answer for the hope within him. David tells him of the divine experience that God gave regarding combat experience overcoming a lion and a bear, and David saw the hand of God in those events, and he gives the glory to God.

Further, David is not at all ashamed of being a shepherd, which Eliab had made fun of him for just a few minutes before. There also is no doubt in David's mind that God has full jurisdiction here and can save him alive out of Goliath's hand. God saved him before and He can save him now. This demonstrates the fact that the just shall live by faith. He then goes back to the spiritual argument that Goliath has blasphemed the name of the Living God and will suffer the consequences. At times we have all displayed great signs of courage and bravery for our God, even it means our possible death. This is like Elijah before Ahab and Jezebel (they wanted to kill him on the spot). Elijah, by God working in him, showed great faith. Likewise, Hezekiah showed great faith when Sennacherib set upon Judah, and in many other places, faith and courage by and in God was demonstrated for our good example.

Ga 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Heb 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

I love you all. Amen.