David and Goliath

Goliath challenged the Israelites to pick someone to fight him. If Goliath won, the Israelites would be slaves to the Philistines. If the Israelites won, the Philistines would be slaves to the Israelites. No one wanted to fight Goliath. This went on for 40 days. David came to bring food to his brothers as his father had asked him to do, and when he got there, he heard Goliath make his challenge.

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. 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. 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? —1 Samuel 17:24-26*

- When David mentioned that Goliath was uncircumcised, what he was saying was that Goliath didn't have a covenant with God.
- Everyone else was looking at Goliath in the natural, but David was looking at him according to covenant.
- When you face a problem, you need to look at it according to your covenant with God.
- David was scrawny! His father didn't even put his name in the hat to be eligible to fight.
- If you looked at David in the natural, there was no way he could win against Goliath.
- David looked at it through his covenant.
- This applies to every one of us. God has promised us victory in every area of our lives—health, wealth, relationships—everything.
- We must approach everything based on what the Word of God says.

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. —1 Samuel 17:28

- Eliab began to persecute David telling him he was irresponsible.
- David's father had told him to come.
- When you step out, you will have people criticize and come against you—possibly your own relatives (Matt. 13:57; Mk. 6:4).
- (1 Sam. 16) When Samuel came to anoint a king, Eliab was the one he thought would be king, but God said:

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. —1 Samuel 16:7

- Instead of Eliab being chosen, God chose the runt of the litter—David.
- Many times, persecution is really jealousy.

And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. —1 Samuel 17:29-30

- When people criticize and come against you, you need to have a cause that is bigger than you and them!
- Saul heard about David, and he criticized David as well.

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: 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. 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. —1 Samuel 17:34-36

- David had a covenant with God that he had proven with no one watching.
- David had already put the promises of God into practice by putting his life on the line with a lion and a bear.
- He proved God faithful.
- Don't wait until it is a major thing to trust God.
- Prove His faithfulness wherever you are right now.
- Saul submitted to David and allowed him to fight Goliath.
- When God's anointing comes on you, there is a boldness that comes on you.
- Saul wanted to put his armor on David.
- David said he had not proved Saul's armor and he couldn't use it.
- David was wise enough to stick with what worked for him—a slingshot.

And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. —1 Samuel 17:42-44

• David had been rejected and criticized by his brother Eliab, the king, and now by Goliath.

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands. —1 Samuel 17:45-47

- David ran at Goliath and threw one stone, hitting him between the eyes, and Goliath fell on his face.
- When he fell, David took Goliath's sword and beheaded him as he had prophesied.
- Another lesson here is that we sometimes quit when we get a little bit of relief, but we need to go ahead and "behead" or "kill" the problem until we have total victory.