

THE POINT OF THE BATTLE

KEY THOUGHTS IN THIS SERIES:

1. We all have giants in our lives “shouting to us”.
“Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.” – 1 Samuel 17:11
2. There are no miracles in this story. Instead of waiting for miracles, we need to exercise our faith and courageously step out for God.
3. It’s only when we slay our giants that God can fully use us in our families, our church and His Kingdom.

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

4A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

8Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

23Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father’s family from taxes in Israel.”
 - 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 23-25

THE BACKGROUND TO THIS STORY

- Israel — First king, lots of victories and confidence.
- The people had begun to trust in man and man’s way.
- The Place of this Story — *The valley of Elah = (no blood)*
- The Point of this Passage — *“Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.”*

WHY DO WE FEAR?

1. We focus on the size of the problem instead of the solution!
2. We see only from man’s (and our selfish) perspective.
How could God do this to me?
3. We get outside of our comfort zone (or our traditional way of doing things.)
Why did they allow Goliath to make the rules?
4. The problem won’t go away.
“For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand”
 -1 Samuel 17:16
5. We’re afraid we won’t look good in front of others.
“Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honour me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.”
 - 1 Samuel 15:30
6. We haven’t defeated this kind of a problem before. (1 Sam. 17:34-36)
7. We believe that we are responsible for everything and forget that God is able to do incredible things through us.
“They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.”
Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!”
 -1 Samuel 10:23,24

SAUL’S SOLUTION TO FEAR

1. Man’s ideas and man’s weapons. (1 Samuel 17:23-25)

SO, HOW DO WE DEFEAT THE GIANT OF FEAR?

1. We often need someone to show us the way.
Some of you are trailblazers. Don’t fail us!
2. Remember the “giants” that you’ve conquered before.
3. Understand that the Lord is in control of both the good and the bad. He has a plan!
 (Isaiah 64:8)
4. Be honest about your fear and share it with someone.
5. Live life to the fullest, for God has given you this day!
“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?”
 - Luke 12:25,26

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