

## THE PEOPLE 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.

### 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.

### WHY DO PEOPLE TREAT US AS IF WE AREN’T IMPORTANT?

1. Because we are young.

*“Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul’s time he was old and well advanced in years. Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. **David was the youngest.** The three oldest followed Saul...”* – 1 Samuel 17:12-14

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”* – 1 Timothy 4:12

2. Because sometimes they evaluate us by what we do.

*“David went back and forth from Saul to **tend** his father’s **sheep** at Bethlehem... Now Jesse said to his son David, “Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.”* – 1 Samuel 17:15,17

*“So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is **tending the sheep.**” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”* – 1 Samuel 16:11

3. Because people become too familiar with us. (Family)

*“When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”* – 1 Samuel 17:28

*Familiarity breeds contempt.*

*“Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.”* – Mark 6:3

4. Because we have little experience.

*“Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth.”* – 1 Samuel 17:33

5. Because of our appearance.

*“Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him.”* – 1 Samuel 17:41,42

6. Because we have no “connections.”

*“As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is that young man?” Abner replied, “As surely as you live, O king, I don’t know.” The king said, “Find out whose son this young man is.”* – 1 Samuel 17:55,56

### HOW DO WE DEFEAT THE GIANT OF INSIGNIFICANCE?

1. Don’t quit — even when others have no confidence in you!

Who tried to discourage David?

- *Many people who could do great things quit before they even begin!*
- *On the other hand, don’t expect people to bow before you because of your “potential.”*

2. Don’t seek significance for yourself. Allow God to use you in His time, and in His way.

*“Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.”* – Proverbs 12:9

*“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”* – Esther 4:14

3. Place your trust in the Lord and His power. Ask the Lord to use you in mighty ways for His purposes!

*“David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel...”* – 1 Samuel 17:45

4. Remember: God sees you differently than the world does.

*“When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD. But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. **Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**’”* – 1 Sam. 16:6,7

5. Be careful not to treat others as insignificant.

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”* – Philippians 2:3

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