

Fil-Am Community Church

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Pastor David Bennett

“Facing your Giants”

Story of a young David by the creek but not preoccupied with his reflection in the water or how he is dressed, instead he is looking for smooth flat stones to put into his bag.

Now switch to a completely different view than the lowly shepherd boy looking for stones to a battle scene with two opposing armies on each side of a valley line up ready to fight to the death for a cause. You see a menacing figure standing over nine feet tall. He wears over a hundred lbs of armor and his spearhead alone weighs around 25 lbs.

He is Goliath the Philistine champion, standing in the valley alone looking over the army of the Israelites and mocking and taunting not only them but God himself.

Now we switch back to David who showed up not to join the fight or even be part of the crowd but he showed up to deliver food to his brothers, but what he hears is this giant defying God and that's when David makes a decision.

1 Samuel 17:40 (NIV)

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Goliath mocks David, this shepherd boy with no military training coming out to fight the Philistine champion with no armor, sword or shield. The on-looker may also look and ask what chance does David have against the giant?

Some would argue he has a better chance at defeating his Goliath than we do against our own giants.

Your Goliath does not carry a sword or a shield but carries the blades of:

Unemployment

Debt

Abandonment

Broken Relationships

Sexual Abuse

Anger

Drug Addiction

Rejection

Depression

Helplessness

Your giant doesn't parade up and down the mountain side calling your name,

However he does roam the halls of your office, your bedroom, you classroom and brings with him....

Bills you can't pay

Grades you can't make

Alcohol you can't resist

Pornography you can't refuse

A Career you can't escape

A Past you can't shake

A Future you can't face

You know the roar of your Goliath all too well.

You can hear you Giant shout:

You're not qualified for that job.

You're not good enough.

You can't save your marriage.

You can't save your kids.

You can't shake your past failures.

You will never change.

You will never amount to nothing.

David will teach us how to face our own giants. Now, are you ready?

- To say goodbye to defeat and start victorious life with God? Are you ready?
- To discover on how to face the giant challenges that we are facing today? Are you ready?
- To know the weapons that God prepares for us and claim the victory? Are you ready?
- To join the battlefield called life and be confident of God's presence? Are you ready?
- To cut off the enemies head and overcome totally all the deception of the devil in your lives? Are you ready?

Now here is a key you need to pay attention to, look at what David said to his Giant.

1 Samuel 17:26 (NIV)

²⁶ *David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the **Living God?**"*

The key thing to recognize is that David showed up discussing God. If you look the soldiers didn't mention him, his brothers never spoke his name, but David who takes one step onto the battle field raises the subject of the Living God.

We see David plugs into his power source in Vs 37

1 Samuel 17: 37 (NIV)

37 The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

David did not say the he delivered his flocks from the lion and bear. But he Said, "THE LORD WHO DELIVERED ME". The Lord is the source of David's power.

All our electronics appliances will be useless unless connected to the source of electrical power. Our life is also useless if not connected to the source of our power no other than God.

He did the same thing with King Saul, he made no chit chat about battle plans or even question his odds of survival he simply states.....

We look back at the battle field and see that Goliath continues to mock David, Israel and God himself.

So far no one else discusses God where we see that David discusses no one else but God! Don't get it wrong David sees the giant that he rushes to do battle with but it is more than David vs. Goliath to him it turns into God-Focus rather than Giant-Focus.

David sees what others fail to see and refuses to see what others do. It all boils down to ***Perspective or Focus.***

On the day David faced Goliath, everyone had the same opportunity:
The army saw Goliath.....David saw God.
The army saw the problem.....David saw the potential.

Davis knows he is about to be in a fight but look what he says in **1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NIV)**

⁴⁵ 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, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

As David rushes into battle you could almost see his brothers look away out of fear or even embarrassment thinking that David has not been trained in military tactics or tasted combat the way they have, what does he think he is going to do when he gets within Goliath's reach? You could also see a heavy sigh from King Saul as this frail David rushes into battle, in his mind running to his certain death. He is representing the nation of Israel and is about to face the mighty giant.

Remember prior to running into battle Saul put his armor on him, gave him his sword and tried to suit him for battle. David took one step and said he couldn't move under the weight of the equipment and dropped it all picking up his sling and stones.

David wasn't going to place his life in the hands of his armor or weapons but rest it on the only thing he could be sure of..... **God**

Why do believers have such a hard time understanding this principle?

When life comes rushing in on you why do you always run to Dr. Phil, Opra or anyone else who will listen rather than taking it to our Heavenly Father?

Back to the battle field, David rushes into battle and Goliath throws his head back in laughter at this knat challenging him, and as he does David sees an opening around his forehead of exposed skin. All you hear is the swish swish of the sling that David is swinging over his head.

Then in one quick motion he releases the sling and the entire battlefield watches in amazement as the rock hits the giant directly in the forehead and cannot believe their eyes to watch him drop to his knees and then fall face down on the battle field.

We all will have to face the Giants in our life. The principle we need to follow is don't face them alone but do it by focusing on God. We see in David's life that when he focused on God, Giants fell when he didn't he fell.

Saints you may want to pay attention to this next one...

Focus on Giants --- You stumble

Focus on God --- Your Giants Stumble

Remember the one who made a miracle out of David's life stands ready (today) to make one out of you.

The story didn't stop there remember after Goliath fell David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

How do we defeat our Goliaths' today?

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| Cut off evil communications | Cut off elicited relationship |
| • Cut off bad habits and vices | Cut off pornography |
| • Cut off drug addiction | Cut off alcoholism |
| • Cut off dishonesty | Cut off adultery and infidelity |

The next time the giants shout, you know what to do?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Plug in to the source of power | Choose the right weapons |
| Keep your eyes on the right focus | Seize God's moment |
| Cut off the enemy's head | |

Let's take a step back and look at how David was chosen to be the Giant Killer.

Samuel was looking for someone that the God would bless and anoint as Saul's replacement as King. What made him look past Saul's descendants or many others from the aristocrats of the day to look at a lowly shepherd boy tending the flocks?

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

7... "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Are you not weary of a society of being graded according to worldly standards or outward appearances? Are you not tired of being graded according to...

The inches of your waist

The square footage of your house

The make or model of the car you drive

The diplomas on your wall

The color of your skin

It is so sad when hard work is ignored and the boss chooses Cleavage over Character

Where the teacher picks pets over the ones prepared.

But God saw a teenage shepherd boy serving him and made his choice, David was secretly anointed as the next ruler of the Nation.

The next part of David's life is where things start to unravel and he takes his focus off God and is concerned with his surroundings. Turn after turn he makes mistakes he finds himself in hiding, he is hiding from his family; his father-in-law is trying to kill him.

Some of you may be able to understand that, but I hope not...

David was on the run his royal palace was replaced by a cave in the desert he is in hiding. Saul cut him off from his position, from his family and his friends, from his loved ones.

The question is what or who is the Saul in your life? Who has you cut off from your rightful position?

But to get to the heart of the problem is not so much how you got where you are, the details at this point make no difference the question is what do I do now?

We need to once again look to the shepherd boy, the giant killers and see how at his lowest point, in hiding from everyone he cared about, what he does to rise above his circumstances.

Look what he says in Psalms 57:1-2

¹Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in you; and in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge until destruction passes by. ²I will cry to God Most High, To God who accomplishes all things for me.

Look at what was going on in David's life when he wrote this, he was at his lowest point and yet he regained his God Focus. We need to follow his example and make God our focus and not....

You're Job

Your Spouse

You're Reputation

Your Retirement Account

The number of friends on FACEBOOK

They can all leave you alone; put your trust in the only thing that will never leave you wanting. **God.**

Someone said it best by saying; you will never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have...

Look what happens then, once he puts his focus back on God he is joined by his family, others started to come. Men in trouble, with baggage, with debts, with criminal records and warrants for their arrest. They all came to David as their leader, he was the leader of the band of misfits, they were considered the bottom of the barrel, the worlds rejects.

It kind of reminds you of the church.....

You heard me correct the church, a band of people with a past, the lost the ones with addictions and all our flaws, we are considered the world's rejects.

What does David do, he created a community of God Seeking misfits. They increased daily until God forged them into a great Army, his Army, God's Army.

David and his men emerge from the ruins of Ziklag; it was David and his 600 men return form a long campaign only to find complete devastation at home. When I say they returned from a long campaign it was not by way of the USS Kennedy or a Boeing 747 American Airline flight. They went and returned by way of their own horse power typically by foot with everything they needed on their back.

All the women and children have been taken captive by a band of Amakalites marauders. Could you imagine coming back from war only to find that the enemy has crept in and stolen your entire family and looted your entire house while you were away?

At this point his men were enraged, but not as much toward the true enemy the Amakelites, they focused their rage toward David, he was the one that led them into battle, it was him that left his women and children unprotected while they were gone. It was his fault he was to blame.

It seems at times in our life we also find ourselves in a very similar situation where we are the hero one moment and the zero the next. We just happen to be the closest person they could find to make the scapegoat. What do we do when we find ourselves in this situation? Catastrophe seems to bring out

the best and worst in people lets look at what David does in the same situation.

1 Samuel 30:6 says, “6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.”

David turns to the one thing that has never failed him, he turns to the one place he knows always provides security and strengthening, he turns to God. How many of us run and hide or try and use excuse after excuse to explain the situation vice facing it with God’s help?

David reengaged his men and with God’s help focused their anger off of him and back on to the real enemy the Amakelites. They are ready to step off in hot pursuit of their enemy to try and rescue their family, their goods, and their pride. The issue still remained as they started to leave they had just returned from a very weary campaign. They departed tired and defeated rather than refreshed and ready to do battle. They departed with the dust and weariness of the last campaign still on their sandals and in their bones.

His 600 men finally reached a place called Besor, or the brook at Besor. This is a pivotal place for him men to find themselves at. Here his men were able to wade into the brook of cool clean running water and wash their sweat soaked face. They were able to soak their feet and take the pack off their backs. It is there where 200 of his men decide that they cannot continue. They want to stay there and rest but cannot continue.

Ask yourself what would make you stop your pursuit to rescue your spouse or child. Don’t answer that question out loud but think to yourself what could keep you from completing your mission?

Is this much like the church today? We start a plan or a campaign for God only to stop along the way to rest our feet, too tired to continue, too battle fatigued to stay in the fight. There are many things that could lead you to the brook of Besor in your life. It could be a divorce, addiction, the death of

a close relative or loved one, many things could wind up putting you at the brook of Besor the question is how will you deal with it?

The church will have to decide what will we do when we get there? What are we going to do when the going gets tough? We need to be honest and realize the question is not if the trials of life will come but it is just when?

David and 400 of his men decide to continue the pursuit leaving 200 there at the brook of Besor. David could have rebuked them and tried to force them to continue but decided to let them stay and continue on.

Church we need to remember at times we will leave some at the brook and continue on, they will not all shared the same intensity or vision that you may have. At times it is better to be separated by the truth rather than to be united under a lie.

As they continued they were getting more and more weary and discouraged with every sand dune, every tune where there was no end in sight. It was during this time that they ran into an old Egyptian left for dead in the desert. They nursed him back to health only to find out that the Amakelites had left him for dead and that he knew where they were at.

Some could say they were in too much of a hurry to stop for an old dying man that they should have passed him by. It would have been understandable; they were trying to rescue their families. But David stopped and nursed the man back to health. Church don't you know that God plants our answer all around us, if we are just smart enough to open our eyes and see it. They might have never found the Amakelites if it had not been for the old man.

So David and his 400 men come upon the enemy encampment, who were unprepared, never in a thousand years would they have thought David and his men would be in pursuit after just returning from a long and bloody campaign. They would be at home mourning their losses, they would be looking for sympathy from anyone who would listen, and they would be

holding a huge sympathy party in their honor. They would make all the talk shows Opra, Dr Phil etc.

David's men swooped down on the enemy and rescued every single women and child taken. They took all the spoils that the enemy had and started the journey back home. As they drew near the Brook of Besor the men started to grumble how they rightfully deserved more than the 200 men that stayed behind. They didn't share in the pursuit, the fighting and so should not join in the share of the bounty. Their mentality was the 200 rested while the 400 did the fighting. It just wasn't fair because they didn't share in the pain they should not share in the glory.

Church does that sound like any of us at all? Have we ever held out from a brother or sister because we felt like they didn't deserve a part of the glory? A part of the recognition because they didn't do as much as we thought they should or could have done?

We will never become a church that effectively reaches out to those who are missing out if we shoot our wounded and all those who stop along the way to rest.

You could see that this is a very tense full place that David and his warriors were heading into. The wives were upset that their husbands didn't make the full journey but stayed at the brook, the soldiers didn't think they deserved the same recognition, and the 200 that remained behind were also very ashamed of their actions. The bottom line was you could cut the tension with a knife.

Here is what David said I 1 Samuel 30:23-24, ²³ *David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us. ²⁴ Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."*

David could have agreed with the crowd, with his men and be justified by his decision. But as you know David was not overly concerned with what people thought about him, but was very concerned about how God viewed him. That was one reason David was referred to as a Man after God's own heart. He flipped it and said that they stayed with the supplies. He blessed them by trying to save their dignity and in return made them want to serve him for the rest of their life.

You could look at the Brook of Besor very similar to the Church, where it should be a place of rest, a place of refuge, a place for a soldier to go and regain their strength, without persecution from the saints. We should always build them up and encourage allow them to keep their dignity while they are regaining their strength rather than tearing them down and talk about their shortfalls, post it on face book and MySpace.

But I know that would never happen to any of us here at Fil-Am we would never talk about a brother or sister that has made a mistake, we would never gossip or (Chissmiss) about another Christian. I am just saying this for any of the visitors that might be here.

I think we have all found ourselves battle weary at one point in our life, we find ourselves at a place where we are too tired to continue, too ashamed to complain and just waiting on what will happen next.

The key was that David realized that the battle and victory was not his or anything from his doing. It was all a gift from God that had been delivered into his hands. We as a church as the saints of God also need to remember it is a gift from God and as such needs to be shared with all the saints. Our goal should not be to claim the victory or any of the glory but to unite in this situation vice divide further.

We need to remember:

Focus on Giants---- You Stumble

Focus on God--- Your Giants Stumble

If we keep focused on God and not allow ourselves to become distracted from the clutter of the world we will always remain victorious!

Take a moment to answer this question. Do you call Jesus Savior and Lord? Perhaps you never have.

Perhaps you never knew how much Christ loves you. I'm here to tell you he does.

Jesus did not disown David. He forgave David. He loved David. He led David. He won't disown you. He simply awaits your invitation.

One word from you and God will do again what he did with David and millions like him. He will claim you, save you, and use you. Any word will do, but these seem appropriate!

“Jesus, I trust you with my life. I want to make you my Master, Savior, and Giant-killer. I trust you with my heart and give you my life. ”

Pray such words with an honest heart, and be assured of this! Your greatest Goliath has fallen. Your failures are flushed and death destroyed.

Let us pray.....