**1 Samuel 17**

**Main idea: Successfully dealing with our problems demands a spiritual perspective.**

**1 Samuel 17:4-7**

**Goliath**

* **9’9” tall (Basketball hoop = 10 feet!)**
* **Helmet/Coat of armor = 125 lbs.**
* **Spear = about 34 lbs. total (Tip = 15-16 lbs.)**
* **Goliath was not just tall; he was large and strong!**

**1 Samuel 17:8-11**

* **Saul was the most likely opponent of Goliath (9:2; 10:23-24).**
* **His past struggles had caught up to him. Now, he wasn’t ready.**
* **He inactivity exposes his personal feelings of insecurity and inferiority.**
* **Those who are best suited outwardly are not necessarily best suited for the task.**

**1 Samuel 17:9-16**

**Our biggest problems often don’t just go away. We have to face them.**

**1 Samuel 17:23-30**

* **David had to deal with a family who didn’t exactly show exceeding respect for him – 16:11; 17:28-29. At times, we may have to, as well.**
* **David looked past his physical shortcomings and past Goliath’s overwhelming advantage. In fact, no one “matched up” physically.**
* **David was a man confident in God - 2 Tim 1:7; Heb. 11:30-40**
* **David sounds a lot like Jonathan - 1 Sam. 14:6**

**Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.”**

**The Significance of Circumcision**

* **Part of the Covenant family**
* **Recipients of the Abrahamic Promises (Gen. 17)**
* **Distinctive, holy, and separate from the world (Dt. 10:16)**
* **Daily reminder of the coming Messiah**

**In David’s view, since Goliath was not under the Covenant protection of God (Dt. 31:1-8), he didn’t stand a chance.**

**1 Samuel 17:33**

**The word Saul used to describe David here normally means an older teenager.**

**1 Samuel 17:34-40**

* **David’s viewpoint was that God delivered him against greater odds in the past and He could do it again.**
* **Notice that God brought victory through something with which David was familiar; a sling and a stone (17:39-40).**
* **You don’t have to be someone else with someone else’s background. All any of us have to be is ourselves.**

**The key is: *will I believe God?***

**1 Samuel 17:41-47**

* **David saw his size disadvantage as opportunity to glorify God!**
* **Our weaknesses are opportunities to grow and to honor God! 2 Cor. 12:7-10**
* **From David’s standpoint, the issue was the fact that Goliath was not circumcised.**
* **The issue was between Goliath and God!**

**“God connects to the giant in your life not when you address the giant but when you address the spiritual issues behind the giant.”**

**Tony Evans**

**1 Samuel 17:51-52**

* **Can you be confident that God will bring *you* victory? Rom. 8:28; Heb. 11:6**
* **Sometimes our victories don’t come when or how we expect**

**1 Samuel 17:55-57**

* **Saul may well have simply forgotten who David’s father was and wanted to reward him. He doesn’t ask who David is.**
* **It is also possible that 16:14-23 was a summary of events in Saul’s life with David and not chronological. OT books sometimes emphasize theme over chronology, as in the book of Daniel. This makes sense in that the men knew David to be a “mighty man of valor, a man of war”. The purpose of the section may well be to summarize for the reader what happened when Saul lost the Spirit and how the Lord used it to build relationship between Saul and David.**

**Be still long enough to evaluate the spiritual nature of your situation:**

**What does God say about the spiritual issue behind this problem?**

**What has God given me that is being tested?**

**“If you get the right perspective, it will change what you do with the Goliath’s in your life.”**

**“Keep the right perspective so you keep going, in spite of the circumstances.”**

**Tony Evans**

**“The opposite of the fear of the Lord is the fear of man.**

**No greater contrast of these opposing fears could be presented than when David confronted Goliath.**

**Saul and his men feared Goliath the man, but David by virtue of his fear of Yahweh, did not.”**

**Young David and the Practice of Wisdom**

**Homer Heater, Jr.**

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