

David: Bravery in a Battle 1 Samuel 17

We live in a dark world filled with difficult situations and internal struggles. Like David, we're called to not simply focus on the outcome of these battles, but instead, we should focus on our outlook in these battles. When we study the battle of David and Goliath, we find that he responds to the darkness by remembering God's greatness, God's gifts, and God's grace.

Read – Psalm 9.1-2, 19-20

The Truth is...

- **We all have/will reach that point of “This is it. This is my end.”** If you’re my sister, it might happen when your husband and father of your baby daughter comes home one night and says “I’m done. I want a divorce.” If you’re my wife, it might happen when your dad comes home one night and says “I’m losing my job and I’m not sure what we’re going to do.” If you’re one of my youth parents last year, it might happen when your son’s high school calls to tell you his heart just stopped beating and he died.
- **We live in a dark world**, which we try to forget until we’re faced with a dark situation or struggle. The question isn’t whether or not you’ll be confronted with darkness, the question is **how will you respond to that darkness?**

This Semester...

- We’re studying the Life of David through his stories and Psalms in order to understand what made him a “man after God’s own heart.” I want us to understand what defined him because I want to have that heart, and I want you to have that heart.
- We started by looking at **David’s response to Sin**, and last week we looked at **David’s response to Rejection**

This Morning...

- We’re looking at **David’s response to Darkness**. We’re looking at one of the most famous battles of all time, which is often used as a “go kill your giants!” pep talk. But hear me when I say you can’t just go out and kill your giants. **You can’t just overcome the darkness** of this world. Instead, we should follow David’s response: by **Remembering 3 Truths (list)**

The Darkness

- **Read: 1 Sam 17.2-4** – We start off with the **Israelites lined up in a canyon** against these super bad dudes called the **Philistines** who were invading Israel’s space. They’re staring each other down when the Philistines send forth Goliath (10ft, 200lbs of armor)
- **Read: 1 Sam 17.10-11,16** – **Goliath challenges Israel** to a winner-take-all duel, with a dash of smack talk, twice a day for **40 days...** with no response
- **Read: 1 Sam 17.13** – And look who’s in the crowd: the Hemsworth boys! Jesse’s impressive sons from last week are in the ranks while David is still taking care of sheep and running errands
- **Read: 1 Sam 17.22-23** – So Jesse sends David to take bread and cheese to his bros so they can carbo-load and build some mass. Which gives us the narrator’s best line – “And David heard him.” (brothers didn’t care)

The Classic Interpretation

- At this point we’ve told and retold this story too many times to count – A little guy overcomes all odds and opponents to WIN!
- Christians use this story as a **pep-talk to overcome the Giants** in our lives...
 - **Ex: “What’s your giant?”** “I’m mean to my sister...?” “Kill it!”

- But this interpretation is completely wrong because it's completely focused on the **outer circumstances**, right after we JUST read a story about how we shouldn't focus on the **outer appearances** – and Eliab makes a cameo in case we forgot!
- We're not supposed to focus on David's **Outcome... we focus on his Outlook!**
- If I'm focused on outcome, if my giant won't die, I question God – When I'm still **depressed**, or my parents still **divorce**, or I still can't quit struggling with **pride** or **lust** or **jealousy**, I question **"But God said..."**
- The truth is that **darkness is here**, and it's not going away. Sometimes God banishes it, **but sometimes He doesn't**. Sometimes God **kills David's giant**, but sometimes David has to **run and hide in the desert** for years.
- **Different Outcome, Same Outlook**
 - His outer circumstances changed, **but his inner heart was always the same**. So instead of looking at looking David's **actions**, we're going to look at David's **heart**, which was **focused on 3 truths**:

Remember God's Greatness (v26)

- **Read: 1 Sam 17.26** – David remembered **God is HUGE**
- **Read: Psalm 9.19-20** – When was the last time you prayed for God to take care of an entire **nation**?
- **Read: Job 38.1-7** – **God's getting sassy!** But when was the last time you thought about the fact God built the world around you?
- Callback Ex: My sister's husband came home and told her he was done with her and their daughter. I'll always remember going to her, telling her how sorry I was, and when I asked how she was doing, I saw an incredible peace in her face when she told me "We're going to be okay, I've been praying a lot." – there was still a terrible road ahead, but it was okay. She knew everything wouldn't be happy and awesome, but she knew **God is Greater than the Darkness**.

Remember God's Gifts (v38-40)

- **Read: 1 Sam 17.38-40** – David didn't just trust God and proceed to walk into the darkness with open arms and a prayer... **he used God's gifts!**
- God has given us **practical resources** for facing the darkness of our world: He's given us Our **Abilities**, His **Word**, and His **People**
- Callback Ex: Susan's dad lost his job when she was a Sophomore in high school. His department got eliminated and he found himself unemployed with a wife, a son in college, and a daughter in high school. The last thing he was going to do was just sit around and wait for God to drop a new job into his lap. So he started looking into roles where he could use the abilities God had given him. He started talking to colleagues and friends and people God had placed in his life. It turned out that there was a position open at the university way back in his hometown in MS, so he made the unbelievably tough call to move to MS while leaving his wife and daughter in Texas so Susan could finish high school. **He knew God gave him Gifts in the Darkness**.
- At this stage in your life, you've got flexibility to **invest in God's Gifts: Sharpen your Abilities, Read His Word, Meet with His People!**

Remember God's Grace (v34-37)

- **Read: 1 Sam 17.34-37** – David remembered God's Grace
- **We all use Past Experience to set Present Expectations**
 - Ex: Parker always poops in the extra rooms, so we keep the doors closed (except maybe when we house-sit...)
- Maybe **you haven't wrestled any bears** to death, but if we take a moment to reflect, we've all seen God move in our lives
- Callback Ex: Jake's Story – Last February, one of my high school Bible study guys was at school when his **heart just stopped beating** and he died on the spot. I'll always remember going to see his family at the hospital, saying how sorry I was, and seeing the **complete shock** in their faces.
- That shock **lasted all week** as I worked with them through funeral arrangements. They wanted me

to officiate, so I would speak for Jake and his family, with his mom maybe speaking as well if she felt up to it. Thus, I got the chance to talk about Jake to a packed out Southwood auditorium, about his impact and his legacy and his faith.

- I remember getting off stage, praying that God would use the Gospel I presented, and as soon as I looked up, I saw Jake's mom, who suddenly had an incredible **peace about her**. Then she **shared about her son and her God**, and she explained that she was **hurting but joyful** because, thanks to Jesus Christ, **she knew God** and that, thanks to Jesus Christ, **her son knew God, so she knew Jake was living in splendor** in the presence of God for all of eternity. **She knew God gave Grace in the Darkness.**
- The truth is, even if your darkness seems larger than life, **God moved into the darkness of sin and death and saved us**. Whether you've trusted Jesus Christ or not, if you can't think of any past experiences of God's grace, the truth is that **God died so you can have life**.
- **Read: John 16.20-22,33** – Jesus promises darkness, but He also promises a life beyond this dark world.

App:

I don't know what darkness you're facing or about to face. I don't know if it's an external situation or an internal struggle, but I know that no matter what your Outcome will be, your Outlook can remain the same: **Remember God's Greatness, God's Grace, and God's Gifts.**

Psalm 9:1-2, ESV

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
2 I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:5-6, ESV

You have rebuked the nations; you have made the wicked perish;
you have blotted out their name forever and ever.
6 The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins;
their cities you rooted out;
the very memory of them has perished.

Psalm 9:19-20, ESV

Arise, O Lord! Let not man prevail;
let the nations be judged before you!
20 Put them in fear, O Lord!
Let the nations know that they are but men! Selah

1 Samuel 17:2-4, ESV

And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. **3** And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. **4** And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

1 Samuel 17:10-11, ESV

And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." **11** When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

1 Samuel 17:16, ESV

For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

1 Samuel 17:13-15, ESV

The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. **14** David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul, **15** but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

1 Samuel 17:22-23, ESV

And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. **23** As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

Job 38:1-7, ESV

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?"

3 Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?"

Tell me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone,

7 when the morning stars sang together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

John 16:20-22, ESV

Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. **21** When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. **22** So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

John 16:33, ESV

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."