



FACING GIANTS IN LIFE AND WORK

1 Samuel 17:1-52

- Today we're learning about how to pursue "vocational health" in our lives.
- Our ability to dream and envision a great future is a God-given gift.
- Nothing really happens without a dream or a vision.
 - "Imagination rules the world." (Napoleon Bonaparte)
 - "Imagination is more important than knowledge." (Albert Einstein)
- "Giants" in life and work often keep people from pursuing their dreams.
- David was an unlikely candidate to be the one fighting against the giant Goliath.
- While Goliath was an intimidating sight, he had some issues to deal with as well.
- David's encounter with Goliath reminds us that our perceived "giants" aren't as dangerous or difficult as we perceive them to be, and it illustrates to us what has to take place if we are going to overcome "giants" in our lives and work.
- *What are some "giants" that we will have to face in life and work, and what steps can we take to overcome them?*

WHAT ARE SOME "GIANTS" WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IN LIFE AND WORK?

Sometimes We're Going To Have To Deal With:

- **THE GIANT OF DELAY**
 - *"David was the son of a man named Jesse . . . and he had eight sons. Jesse's three oldest sons - Eliab, Abinadab, and Shimea - had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines. David was the youngest son. David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem." (1 Samuel 17:12-15)*
 - **There are going to be people who attempt to hold us back when we're seeking to pursue our dreams, and sometimes they're people close to us.**
- **THE GIANT OF DISCOURAGEMENT**
 - *"Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. 'Why are you all coming out to fight?' he called. 'I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the*

armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!’ When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.” (1 Samuel 17:8-11)

- **Many people will try to keep us back because they are demoralized and fearful by the circumstances they are facing.**
- **Conventional wisdom is often wrong, so the question we must ask ourselves is, “Who am I listening to?”, and “Why am I listening to them?”**
- *“As David was talking with them (his brothers), Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright.” (1 Samuel 17:23-24)*
- **If we listen to negative and fearful people long enough we will become negative and fearful.**
- **THE GIANT OF DISAPPROVAL**
 - *“David asked the soldiers standing nearby, ‘What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?’ . . . But when David’s oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. ‘What are you doing around here anyway?’ he demanded. ‘What about those few sheep you’re supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!’” (1 Samuel 17:26-28)*
 - **Many people won’t go after their dreams because they’re afraid of disapproval.**
 - **Oftentimes it’s our own family members who try to keep us from pursuing our dreams with their demoralizing words and disapproval.**
 - **Regardless of what people around us say to us, we need to let the size of our God determine the size of our goals.**
- **THE GIANT OF DOUBT**
 - *“Don’t worry about this Philistine,’ David told Saul. ‘I’ll go fight him!’ ‘Don’t be ridiculous!’ Saul replied. ‘There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.’” (1 Samuel 17:32-33)*
 - **“Experts” will often tell us we can’t do something, but “experts” can be wrong if they don’t have faith in our God.**
- **What “Giants” have I been having to deal with as I’ve sought to pursue my life and vocational dreams?**

HOW DO WE OVERCOME THE “GIANTS” IN OUR LIVES?

We Overcome Our Life And Vocational Giants By:

- **REMEMBERING HOW GOD HAS HELPED US IN THE PAST**
 - *“But David persisted. ‘I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,’ he said. ‘When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The*

Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!” (1 Samuel 17:34-37)

- **How has the Lord helped me in times past when I was facing great challenges?**
- **USING THE TOOLS GOD HAS GIVEN US FOR THE PRESENT**
 - *“Then Saul gave David his own armor - a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. ‘I can’t go in these,’ he protested to Saul. ‘I’m not used to them.’ So David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.” (1 Samuel 17:38-40)*
 - **People will oppose us as we seek to pursue our dreams, and sometimes they will simply try to obstruct us by asking us to do things their way.**
 - **We have to be who God has called us to be, not who or what others want us to be, and we have to be ready to move forward now with the tools and resources that God has given us.**
 - *“If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.” (Ecclesiastes 11:4)*
- **EXPECTING GOD TO HELP US ACCOMPLISH GREAT PURPOSES**
 - *“David replied to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies - the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues His people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and He will give you to us!” (1 Samuel 17:45-47)*
 - **What am I expecting God to do in and through my life?**
 - **God will most often do what we expect Him to do or believe He can do.**
 - Jesus - *“According to your faith it will be done for you.” (Matthew 9:29)*
 - *“The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)*
 - *“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6)*
 - *“Faith leads us to victory over the world.” (1 John 5:4)*
 - **Oftentimes our unbelief is what keeps us from being what God has called us to be, living like He’s called us live, and doing all He’s called us to do.**
 - *“All glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” (Ephesians 3:20)*
 - **God is able to do in, for and through our lives greater things than we’ve ever experienced or envisioned.**
- *“As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.*

So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.” (1 Samuel 17:48-50)

- **David didn't have a sword, but he knew the Lord - and knowing, trusting in and depending on the Lord is what enables people to overcome their life and vocational "giants."**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through today's message, and what steps do I need to take in response to what He's saying to me?***