

# Facing Goliath

1 Samuel 17:41-50

## Preface

Too often we think of the Bible stories as just that, stories. We tend to find them interesting reading especially for the children, but we overlook the powerful messages for everyday life.

The story of David and Goliath offers many important lessons for all Christians. Join me today as we read not a children's Bible story but rather a powerful truth about the God we serve and how He works through His faithful children.

## Scripture – Read

*<sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. <sup>42</sup> He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”*

*<sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>46</sup> 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. <sup>47</sup> 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.”*

*<sup>48</sup> As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.*

*<sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. 1 Samuel 17:41-50 NIV*

## Introduction

Lest you think of this story as strictly fiction, I would like to draw your attention to the photograph on the multi-media system. This is the Guinness World Record's tallest man in the world. He is Robert Pershing Wadlow and was known as “The Alton Giant” because he was from Alton, Illinois. He died in 1940 but he was 8’ 11” tall. This is a photo of him standing beside his father.

Though Mr. Wadlow looks to be a mild mannered man, one can see from the picture where someone this tall would appear as a giant beside the rest of us.

Goliath was over 9’ tall with a bronze helmet and a coat of scale armor weighing about 125 pounds. He was armed with a bronze javelin and a long spear with a 15 pound iron tip.

The Israelites were simple sheep herders. The very sight of this man caused them to break out in fear and run for cover. They were no match for such a man. He was a giant; a scary giant.

For forty days Goliath came down into the valley from the Philistine camp and taunted the Israelites. He would challenge any one of them to fight him and if they won the Philistines would become their servants. Goliath was a bully!

My question to you today is, “What is the Goliath in your life and how long has it haunted you?”

What is that great challenge you face that is bigger than you? What has you cowed down in fear and causing you to retreat?

There are many overwhelming things that come along in life. Perhaps it is a troubled marriage or a problem child. Perhaps it is financial struggles or the loss of a job. Or maybe you are facing a serious illness or even cancer.

What is your Goliath today? Our text offers valuable lessons for facing the giants in your life.

Looking at David we learn the key to overcoming life's problems even when they are much larger than we us.

## 1. David believed in his himself

David was sent to the battlefield to deliver food to his brothers and check on their condition. When he arrives, he seems amazed at the standoff that is taking place.

While the other men cowed down in fear, David stood with confidence believing in himself. When others thought him to be a fool, he was confident in his ability.

Notice in verse 28, when his brother Eliab hears David inquiring about the situation he becomes angry. He feels David has no business being there and should be back tending to the sheep.

David doesn't let his brother influence him. Instead he presses forward with his inquiry and approaches Saul. He requests to be the man to face Goliath.

We must not let the negative remarks of others discourage us. We must believe in ourselves and meet our Goliaths head on with confidence in our abilities.

Also, Saul tries to put his armor and helmet on David for protection. Poor David could not even walk in all of that armor. So he removed the armor and just took his staff, a few stones and his sling.

These were the things David was used to using as a Sheppard. David believed in his ability to defend himself with these familiar weapons.

You and I must believe in ourselves even when others discourage us. We must also believe in our ability to fight our Goliaths no matter how large they seem and no matter how others try to force us to do things their way.

Christians are not copy-cat people. We must do things the way God places them on our hearts. The world's solutions are not usually our best weapons.

This is not to say we never listen to advice and counsel of others. But, there are times when we must stand up with confidence and trust in ourselves, our experience and our God given abilities.

As you face the Goliaths in your life, you must take action. You cannot sit back like the Israelites and do nothing. You must believe in yourself.

## 2. David believed in his vision

A Pastor friend once said, "Some people can't look any further than they can see."

Illus: I have handled rubbery plastic many times in my life. I have worked with washers, belts and other things made from a rubbery plastic material. But someone out there got the bright idea to make shoes out of that material. They called them "Crocs" and made a fortune. Someone saw an opportunity I never saw.

David was surrounded by men trapped in their fear of death. But David's vision extended beyond what he could see.

Think about the scene that day in the Valley of Elah. Think about what everyone saw through their eyes and heart that day.

There were the Philistines who looked upon their great warrior and saw victory. They had complete confidence in their giant and his ability to defeat anyone who came against him.

There was Goliath who saw a bunch of cowardly Israelites who were sheep herders and no match for his fighting skills. He saw David as a red faced kid who had no business even being there. He scorned and made fun of David. There are always those who try to make themselves look big by putting others down. It never works and is always a sign of weakness.

The Israelite army and King Saul saw a completely different picture. They saw hopelessness. They saw their defeat at hand. For 40 days they had been hiding in fear. The Israelites saw a mismatch and a slaughter in the making. They saw a giant with lots of armor and a huge spear.

But David had a different vision. With confidence in himself and confidence in God, he looked at Goliath from a different perspective. He looked upon Goliath and pondered how God would open the door for him to have victory.

### **What did David see? He saw a big fat exposed forehead!**

Too often we are bound up by how we see things. Sometimes we have to back up and look at things differently. Today people have a cute saying to express this; "Think outside the box." But few of us ever really do.

When things look bleak; look again and again. As you face the Goliaths in your life, ask God to give you a fresh vision of a path to victory. Look for a vision and believe in your vision.

### 3. David believed in the power and presence of God

When David approached Saul about fighting the Philistine giant, Saul was reluctant saying, "You are just a boy." David did not see himself as limited to his own abilities or stature.

Notice in verses 36 & 37, David says the Lord will deliver him from the hand of this Philistine because he defies the army of the living God. David saw Goliath not only as his enemy but as an enemy of God.

David possessed complete confidence in the power of God to defeat Goliath. Do you have complete confidence in the power of God? Sure you do!

We all have confidence in the power of God. We all believe God is able to do whatever He wills to do. Where we have trouble is in our belief in the presence of God. We believe God is able but we doubt God is willing. We doubt that God is willing to do great things in our own life.

When David meets Goliath face to face, he says in verse 45, *"..You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty."* David goes on to say, *"This day the Lord will hand you over to me..."*

If only we could grasp this concept of faith and confidence in our God. If only we could wrap our arms around the understanding that God is on the side of His children and He is present in our lives. God is eager to show His glory and majesty through us.

David could not have accomplished his task without the power and presence of God. David knew that and believed in the power and presence of God.

Today I challenge you to believe in the power and presence of God in your life. Take hold of the fact that God is eager to work in your life if you will fully trust in Him.

Paul speaks of this in 2 Corinthians when he writes what God has said to him; *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

God's grace is truly sufficient for you. You must believe in the power and the presence of God to overcome your Goliath.

### Conclusion

Are you facing a circumstance that is bigger than you? Put a name on your Goliath. Perhaps you are facing problems with a child, spouse or other loved one. Perhaps you are facing a medical illness. Perhaps you are facing financial problems or the loss of a job. Perhaps you are facing an addiction or a sin.

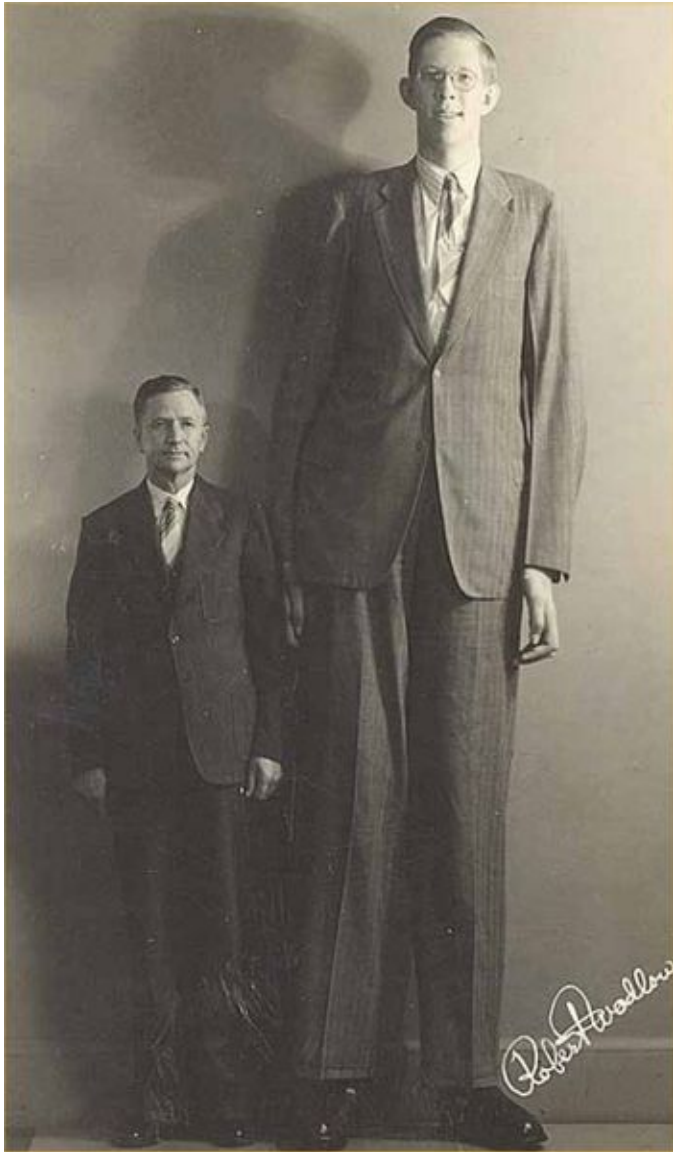
What is your Goliath today? What challenge do you face that is bigger than you?

God is able and willing to tackle this problem with you. God calls you to:

Believe in your abilities and take action.

Look again at your problem and develop a vision or outcome.

Believe in the power and presence of God to carry you through.



## Outline

Preface - Not a Bible story for kids. Adult lessons to be learned.

## Scripture

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## Introduction

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40 days Goliath taunted the Israelites.

What is your Goliath? How long has your Goliath taunted you?

### 1. David believed in his himself

Sent to battlefield to deliver food. Found men cowed in fear.

David stood with confidence in himself.

Vs. 28 David's brother Eliab puts him down.

We can't allow the negative remarks of other to discourage us from doing what is right.

David tries on Saul's armor and he can't walk in it. Returns to the familiar weapons. World offers other weapons, stay the course.

We must believe in ourselves and our abilities. Not be copy-cats.

## **2. David believed in his vision**

A Pastor friend once said, "Some people can't look any further than they can see."

Illus: Handled rubber but never thought of making Crocs.

David surrounded by men trapped in fear. Think about scene.

Philistines saw victory through their warrior. Goliath saw cowards. Israelites saw defeat coming. David saw opportunity and a big fat forehead.

We can't get bound up in the way we see things. "Think outside the box." When things look bleak; look again and again.

## **3. David believed in the power and presence of God**

Vs. 36-37, David knows the Lord will deliver him. Goliath isn't just his enemy, but an enemy of God.

David had confidence in the power of God but also the Presence of God. We have confidence in God's power but not His presence.

We believe God is able but not willing.

When David meets Goliath face to face, he says in verse 45, "*..You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty.*" David goes on to say, "*This day the Lord will hand you over to me...*"

We need to grasp this concept of faith and confidence in our God. God is eager to show His glory and majesty through us.

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