

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

MONDAY

At first, Saul put his own armor on David, but David told him that he had never worn armor while fighting, and he took it off. Instead, he took his shepherd's staff and sling shot, and headed down to the brook between the two hills, picked up five smooth stones (apparently, good for flinging!), put them in his pouch, and headed towards the Philistines! Goliath took a few strides towards David.

I Samuel 17: 8-42

What's the point of the account of the armor? Perhaps Saul sincerely wants to protect David. Perhaps he wants to say his armor was the difference. Regardless, David discovers that he must "be himself". That's integrity and genuineness. That's what God calls us to. Not to be Billy Graham or Charles Stanley. Just be ourselves, just as He has made us. That's the wonder of serving Him: He uses vessels of clay! Like us.

TUESDAY

David had picked out five stones, left the hilltop crowded with quivering Israelite soldiers, and crossed to the one packed with swaggering Philistines lined up behind the enormous body of their fearless champion. Goliath had been expecting a combat-hardened Marine. Or maybe a twenty-year veteran of special forces? Not a kid. With disdain, he asked, "What am I? A dog? Why did you send out a kid with a stick?" Evidently, Goliath did not recognize the sling as a weapon. That would later prove to be a costly oversight!

READ: I Samuel 17:42-44

Goliath's size may be something that we will never encounter, but his attitude is not all that uncommon. He reeks with false confidence and pride! It seems almost that Goliath half expects David to turn and run! But he judged poorly. He failed to take into account the difference God makes in a life! God has put within you spiritual depth that will enable you to live for Him this very day! Go ahead, prove me right on that!

WEDNESDAY

Having heard Goliath curse God and mock him, David replied that he will fight Goliath but not with the traditional weapons of warfare. No swords, spears, or javelins. David declared that he will fight in the name of "the Lord of the armies of Israel." And that he will kill and behead Goliath. And that it will be Goliath's body which is fed to the vultures. He adds that everyone will know that the Lord fought for Israel.

READ: I Samuel 17:45-47

David faces a monstrous warrior on the field of battle, but, instead of bragging of his own strength or daring, he speaks of God's strength. "I come in the Lord's name, I fight by His strength, and I will win for His glory!" For David, God is his all-in-all. How is it for us? Are we determined to act in His name, to live this day for His glory, and to endure the trials before us by His strength? Are we resolved to make Him our all in all this day? David's story says to us that we can do that! And must.

THURSDAY

The Philistine champion began to lumber towards David. David loosened his slingshot in his holster and ran straight at Goliath, pulling a stone out as he charged. Before

Goliath knew what was going on, David loaded and fired. The stone sank into the giant's forehead and he fell face down. (His last words were, "Nothing like that ever entered my mind before.") David ran up and cut off his head with his sword.

READ I Samuel 17:48-51

"Giant vs. Pigmy" ran the headline in the morning paper. The pigmy (aka. David) ran towards the Giant. What the Israelite soldiers must have thought at that! Where angels fear to tread and brave soldiers shake in sheer terror, this sheep-farmer-of-a-boy dashes! David whipped his sling around a couple of times and slang it! It was not David's prowess but God's control which guided that stone to the mark. Ancient Hebrew writings say that when Goliath laughed in derision at David, his helmet fell off, and so confident was he of an easy victory, he left it where it lay, thus exposing his unprotected forehead. True or not, David's stone found the right spot. Like David, as believers, we are *more than conquerors* as God gives us spiritual victories.

FRIDAY

Seeing the Philistine champion beheaded, the Israelites chased them across the hills retreating towards Gath and Ekron, cities in Philistia. Many died along the way. Later, the Israelites plundered the tents and supplies the retreating army left behind on the battlefield. David stashed away Goliath's armor but carried his head into Jerusalem.

READ: I Samuel 17:51-54

David carried Goliath's severed head to Jerusalem dishearten any who might still be sympathetic to the Philistine cause. Two lessons here about Satan and his world: Satan's promise means nothing when it is no longer to his advantage. He may promise you happiness, wealth, and fame, but Satan will only grant that as long as it fits his evil purposes. The second lesson is this: the world always demands proof for the work which you credit to the Lord. But get this: you are the proof! Living proof that God is the Mighty One and those who are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

SATURDAY

Saul witnesses David's victory over Goliath and he tried to collect more information about the boy who had saved Israel. Abner, commander of the army, didn't seem to know, so Saul commanded him to find out. Abner distained research, so after the battle, he just dragged David in before the king. Saul asked David what family he was part of and David replied, "I am the son of your servant, Jesse, of Bethlehem."

READ: I Samuel 17:55-58

David took the armor and put it into safe keeping. Although David had appeared before the king previously as a musician, Saul did not remember him. Or, more than likely, he failed to imagine that it could possibly be the same person! David's humble spirit shone through as he answered the king's question, "Who are you?" Simply, "I'm David, son of Jesse." He keep his head while all around him were casting victory crowns in his direction and while holding Goliath's in his hand! Oh, that we would keep ours! When the accolades of life are cast our way, may we remember that it is of Grace that we have our being!

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