

What to Do with Your Giants - Part 2

The Joy Of the Lord Is Your Strength!

Hardly anything beats a "radiant face"

I want people to experience the *significance of Jesus* and the *joy of His people!*

INTRO:

1. Good morning friends!
2. Everybody loves an underdog story.
3. We love the team that wasn't supposed to win.
4. We love the unknown golfer who shows up on Sunday afternoon and beats the guy everybody expected to win.
5. We love the Cinderella team in March Madness that knocks off the number-one seed.
6. There's something in us that loves watching the little guy take down the giant.
7. And maybe that's one of the reasons David and Goliath has become one of the most famous stories in human history.
8. Even people who've never opened a Bible know what you mean when you say, "It's a David-and-Goliath situation."
9. *But there's a problem with the way we usually tell the story.*
10. Because we immediately assume **we're David**.
11. We think, "I've got my giants. I've got my battles. And if I can just find enough courage and faith, I can take them down."
12. But what if that's not actually the main point of the story?
13. What if before David and Goliath tells us **how to face our battles**, it's showing us that we desperately need **someone to fight a battle for us?**
14. That's where we're eventually going today.
15. *But along the way, David is going to show us something incredibly practical about what faith looks like when you're standing in front of something that feels much bigger than you.*

³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. ³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

1. David's words finally make their way to Saul.

2. And David says something nobody else in Israel is willing to say: "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."
3. Saul's immediate response is essentially: **"David, you can't do this."**
4. And Saul has some pretty good reasons.
 - a. David is young and Goliath is experienced.
 - b. David is a shepherd and Goliath has been a warrior since his youth.
5. From a human perspective, David is completely outmatched.
6. But David responds by telling Saul two stories.
 - a. **There was a lion.**
 - b. **There was a bear.**
7. And God delivered him from both.
8. Then David says in verse 37: "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."
9. Notice what David is doing.
10. David is using God's faithfulness in the past to give him faith for the present.
11. **The way we step forward in faith today is by remembering God's faithfulness in the past.**
 - a. David has never fought Goliath before.
 - b. But David has walked with God before.
12. And because David remembers what God has done, he can trust God with what is about to happen.
13. One of our biggest problems is that under pressure, we tend to forget quickly.
14. Think about Israel.
 - a. God parts the Red Sea.
15. Then they get hungry: **"What are we going to do?!"**
 - a. God provides manna.
16. Then they get thirsty: **"What are we going to do?!"**
 - a. Over and over again, they encounter a new problem and forget the faithfulness of God in the previous problem.
17. **Fear has a short memory.**
18. And maybe that's why Scripture so often commands God's people to **remember**.
19. Because when today's Goliath is filling your vision, you need to remember yesterday's lion and bear.
20. Illustration -
21. I've always been a golfer, and now I've gotten into hunting.
22. And both of those worlds understand **trophies**.
23. Why do you put something in a trophy case?
24. Why does a hunter have an animal mounted?
25. It's not simply decoration.
26. It's about remembering.
 - a. You see it, and you remember.
 - b. You remember where you were.
 - c. You remember who was there.
 - d. You remember what happened.
27. There's a story attached to that trophy.

28. And I think Christians need some **spiritual taxidermy**.
29. We need some trophies hanging on the walls of our hearts that remind us: **"God was faithful there."**
- That's where God provided.*
 - That's where God answered.*
 - That's where I thought I wasn't going to make it.*
 - That's where our family didn't know what to do.*
 - That's where God opened a door.*
 - That's where God carried us.*
30. They're not trophies of *our greatness*. They're trophies of *His faithfulness*.
31. And when the next Goliath shows up, you can look back at the wall and say:
32. *"I've never faced this before - but I've walked with God before."*

How do we build a spiritual trophy case?

- Keep an **answered-prayer list**.
 - Most of us have a prayer list full of things we're asking God to do. Start keeping a second list of the things God has done.
- Write in your Bible.**
 - Put dates beside passages God used during significant seasons. Years from now, you'll come across that date and remember the story.
- Tell your family the stories.**
 - Your kids shouldn't only know Bible stories about what God did 3,000 years ago. They should know stories about God's faithfulness to your family.
- Create physical reminders.**
 - A picture. A letter. An object from a particular season. Something that causes you to remember.
- And finally, **celebrate answered prayers**. Sometimes God answers the prayer on Tuesday, and by Wednesday we've moved on to the next problem.
- Stop.
- Celebrate.
- Remember.
- Because remembering what God did yesterday gives us faith to trust Him today.**

³⁸ Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, ³⁹ and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

- Saul finally agrees to let David go.
- And then he does something interesting.
- He dresses David like himself...**
- He gives David his armor.
 - His helmet.
 - His sword.

5. And David tries it.
6. But verse 39 says: "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them."
7. So what does David do? He simply takes it off...
8. I love that.
9. David realizes:
10. *"I can't fight this battle pretending to be somebody I'm not."*
11. **Don't fight in someone else's armor.**
12. Now, Saul's armor isn't bad.
13. That's important. ***It's just not David's.***
14. And there's a huge difference.
15. We live in a world constantly telling us what we're supposed to look like.
 - a. How we're supposed to talk.
 - b. How we're supposed to lead.
 - c. What success is supposed to look like.
16. And if we're not careful, we start believing the lie:
17. *"If God is really going to use me, I need to become more like them."*
18. But God doesn't need you to become somebody else before He can use you.
19. In fact, the New Testament teaches that God intentionally gives His people different **spiritual gifts**.
 - a. Some teach.
 - b. Some lead.
 - c. Some encourage.
 - d. Some serve.
 - e. Some give.
 - f. Some show mercy.
20. God isn't building His church through clones. **He's building a body.**
21. And bodies need different parts.
22. What does David have? He has a sling - and God used it.
 - a. David didn't have Goliath's spear.
 - b. David didn't have Saul's sword.
 - c. David didn't have Saul's armor.
23. **He had a sling.**
24. *And apparently, a sling was enough when surrendered to God.*
25. Be careful that you don't become so impressed with someone else's sword that you despise the sling God put in your hand.
26. **Illustration — Dad's Golf Clubs**
27. When I was in eighth grade, I remember using my dad's golf clubs.
28. And I thought they were awesome.
29. They looked better than mine.
30. They looked like grown-up clubs.
31. I wanted to play with **those**.
32. There was only one problem.
33. **They were way too big for me.**

34. And because they didn't fit me, I couldn't play to my potential.

35. There was nothing wrong with the clubs.

36. They just weren't mine.

37. I needed clubs that fit me.

38. And I wonder how many of us are swinging somebody else's clubs.

- a. Trying to have somebody else's personality.
- b. Trying to lead like somebody else.
- c. Trying to talk like somebody else.
- d. Trying to have somebody else's ministry or life.

39. And God says: "I've already given you what I want you to steward."

40. So what has God put in **your** hand?

- a. What spiritual gifts has He given you?
- b. What experiences?
- c. What personality?
- d. What abilities?
- e. What opportunities?
- f. What relationships?

41. Use them.

42. Develop them.

43. Steward them.

44. Offer them to God.

41 And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. **42** And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. **43** And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. **44** The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." **45** Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, **47** and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."

1. Now David finally stands in front of Goliath.

2. Goliath looks at him and is insulted.

3. "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?"

4. Then Goliath curses David and tells him exactly what he's going to do to him.

5. David responds: **"You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts..."**

6. And then verse 47: **"For the battle is the LORD's."**

7. That's the theological center of the chapter.

8. The battle belongs to God, but obedience belongs to us.

9. David understands: **God is the source of victory.**
10. But don't misunderstand that to mean David has nothing to do.
11. David doesn't say:
12. *"Awesome. The battle belongs to God. I'll be over here. Let me know how it goes."*
13. No!
14. God sends David into the battle.
15. God gives the victory.
16. **But David gets to participate in what God is doing.**
17. And that's an important picture of the Christian life.
 - a. God sends us on **His mission.**
 - b. He gives us **His power.**
 - c. He gives us **His Spirit.**
18. **And then He actually calls us to obey.**
- 19. We get to participate in what God is doing.**
20. I'm in a tender spot in my life - my kids are getting way too old way too quickly.
21. I remember one time when the boys were little - I invited them to help build a coffee table with me.
22. Took us the better part of an afternoon and it was super frustrating.
23. Their attention span was small - they got distracted with many things...
24. Then when we were done - they shouted: *"Mom! Come look what WE built!"*
25. And - I couldn't help but smile...
26. Now, theologically, here's where the illustration matters:
- 27. My kids really did help...**
 - a. Their involvement wasn't imaginary.
 - b. I really gave them real work to do.
28. But everything they needed to accomplish it - the materials, the tools, the instruction, the opportunity, the strength and wisdom of his father - came from outside himself.
29. That's a picture of Christian obedience.
30. **God's grace doesn't eliminate our effort. God's grace empowers our effort.**
31. God accomplishes His purposes, and incredibly, He invites us to participate.
- 32.

So there are two errors we need to avoid.

1. One says:
- 2. "It's all up to me."**
 - a. That's self-reliance.
3. The other says:
- 4. "It's all up to God, so I don't have to do anything."**
 - a. That's passivity.
5. Biblical faith says:
- 6. "The battle belongs to God - so I can courageously do what He's called me to do."**

48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. **49** And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and

struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

1. I love verse 48: "David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine."
2. He **ran**.
3. For forty days, Israel has been running away from Goliath.
4. David runs toward him.
5. **Biblical faith isn't passive. At some point, your faith has to move.**
 - a. David didn't organize a Bible study on giants.
 - b. He didn't do a deep dive into the various interpretations of slingshots.
 - c. He didn't start a six-week small group called *Discovering Your Inner Giant Killer*.
6. **He ran toward the battle.**
7. Now, obviously I'm not against Bible study!
8. **The point is that there comes a moment when *what you believe has to become what you do*.**
9. You can study forgiveness forever.
 - a. Eventually you have to forgive.
10. You can study generosity forever.
 - a. Eventually you have to give.
11. You can study evangelism forever.
 - a. Eventually you have to open your mouth.
12. You can study serving forever.
 - a. Eventually you have to serve.
13. **Faith eventually moves your feet.**
14. **And obedience is rarely easy.**
15. We sometimes have this idea that if God is really calling us to something, it should feel easy.
16. But look at David.
17. **He's running toward Goliath!**
18. Hard doesn't necessarily mean wrong.
19. Uncomfortable doesn't necessarily mean bad.
20. Scary doesn't necessarily mean stop.
21. Sometimes the very thing God is asking you to do will stretch you.
22. **Just because it's HARD doesn't mean it's BAD.**
23. *Spiritual sweat is good.*
24. Think about physical exercise.
25. If you never put resistance on a muscle, the muscle doesn't become stronger.
26. Resistance isn't always evidence that something has gone wrong.
27. **Sometimes resistance is how strength develops.**
28. The same can be true spiritually.
 - a. You pray when praying is hard.
 - b. You obey when obedience costs you.
 - c. You forgive when you'd rather hold onto it.
 - d. You serve when you're tired.
 - e. You trust when you can't see the outcome.

29. And something happens through repeated obedience: **Your faith gets stronger.**
30. Not because you've become impressive, but because every step of obedience teaches you again that **God can be trusted.**
31. So maybe stop asking: **"Why is this so hard?"**
32. And start asking: **"God, what are You developing in me through this?"**

46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. **51** Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. **52** And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath^[f] and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. **53** And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. **54** And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

1. David runs.
2. David slings the stone.
3. Goliath falls.
4. And suddenly everything changes.
5. The army that has spent forty days afraid starts moving forward.
6. But to understand the victory, go back to what David said in verse 46: **"That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."**
7. David told us what this was about **before the stone ever left his hand.**
8. **God does not give us victories merely to make our lives easier. He uses our lives to make His name known.**
9. David's goal isn't: "When this is over, everybody is going to know MY name."
10. His goal is: "When this is over, everybody is going to know HIS name."
11. That's the purpose of our lives.
12. I like to think in terms of a spotlight...
13. Nobody walks into a theater, sees the spotlight and says: *"Wow. Look at that incredible spotlight!"*
14. The purpose of the spotlight is to **illuminate something else.**
15. It directs your attention toward someone.
16. That's our lives.
17. **We're the spotlight. We're not the star.**
 - a. Our marriages should point somewhere.
 - b. Our parenting should point somewhere.
 - c. Our careers should point somewhere.
 - d. Our gifts should point somewhere.
 - e. ... Our suffering should point somewhere...
18. And even the victories God gives us should point somewhere.

19. Toward Him.

20. That's why the testimony isn't: **"Look what I accomplished."**

21. It's: **"Look what God did."**

22. Not: **"Look how strong I was."**

23. But: **"Look how faithful He was."**

1. So when God answers the prayer - **point the spotlight toward Him.**
2. When God opens the door - **point the spotlight toward Him.**
3. When God carries you through the season you didn't think you'd survive - **point the spotlight toward Him.**
4. And even if the outcome isn't the one you wanted, live with such trust in God that people see His worth through your faithfulness.

CONCLUSION:

1. And this is where we have to come back to the tension we started with.
2. Because if we're not careful, we walk out of David and Goliath thinking:
 3. **"I'm David."**
 - a. *I've got giants.*
 - b. *I've got my sling.*
 - c. *I've got my five stones.*
 - d. *I'm going to go conquer my giants.*
 4. But remember: **You're not ultimately David in this story.**
 5. Look at Israel.
 6. They have an enemy standing across the valley that **none of them can defeat.**
 - a. They've tried.
 - b. They're terrified.
 - c. They're powerless.
 7. They need someone to step into that valley **for them.**
 8. ... Israel needs a champion.
 - a. And then David steps forward.
 9. God's anointed king walks into the valley.
 10. He faces the enemy.
 11. He defeats the enemy.
 12. And notice: Israel doesn't defeat Goliath. **David does.**
 13. But once David defeats Goliath, **David's victory becomes Israel's victory.**
 14. That's the gospel hiding in plain sight in this story.
 15. Because Israel isn't the only people who need a champion.
 16. **We need a Champion.**
 17. We have enemies we cannot defeat through our own strength.
 - a. The deepest problem in your life isn't your finances.
 - b. It's not your boss.
 - c. It's not the difficult person.
 - d. It's not even the circumstance that brought you into church today.
 18. Our deepest problem is **sin.**

- 19. We've sinned against a holy God.
- 20. And no amount of trying harder can undo it.
 - a. No amount of religion can erase it.
 - b. No amount of good works can pay for it.

21. We cannot defeat sin ourselves.

- 22. So God sent a Champion.
- 23. Not David. **The Son of David.**
- 24. Jesus Christ.
- 25. Jesus stepped into the battle we couldn't win.
- 26. He lived the life we could not live.
- 27. He took our sin upon Himself at the cross.
- 28. He died the death our sin deserved.
- 29. And three days later, He walked out of the grave victorious.
- 30. *We don't defeat sin.*

31. Jesus does.

- a. We don't defeat death.

32. Jesus does.

- a. We don't save ourselves.

33. Jesus does.

- a. And just as David's victory became Israel's victory -

34. through faith, Christ's victory becomes ours.

- 35. That's the invitation of the gospel.
- 36. Not: **"Try harder."**
- 37. Not: **"Become David."**
- 38. Not: **"Go kill enough giants so God will accept you."**
- 39. The invitation is:

40. Trust the Champion who has already won the battle you could never win.

- 41. Turn from your sin.
- 42. Place your faith in Jesus Christ.
- 43. Receive the forgiveness He purchased for you at the cross.
- 44. And then you can walk into whatever battle is waiting for you tomorrow - not because you believe you're strong enough to defeat everything life throws at you...

45. but because you know your Champion has already won the battle that matters most.

46. Bridge Family: Our confidence isn't that we can defeat every giant. Our confidence is that Jesus has already defeated our greatest enemy.

THE GOSPEL: Jesus Christ is the ultimate hope for every person. Though we are all sinful and our sin separates us from God, God made a way for us to be in right relationship with him again. That way is Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. God promises that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ will be saved. This is the good news of the Bible.

COMMUNION: 1 Corinthians 11

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, ^[b] "This is my body, which is ^[c] for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you;
may the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
may the Lord look with favor on you ^[b]
and give you peace."