

What to Do With Your Giants — Part 1

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

Pray for those who were just baptized...

8:30 - Natasha Abalos

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INTRO:

1. Good morning friends!
2. **TODAY - STARTING POINT!!!**
3. There are some Bible stories that are so familiar that we can miss what they're actually saying, and David and Goliath is one of them.
4. We hear this story and immediately think, "David had a giant, and I have giants too."
5. But there's a tension we need to acknowledge before we go any further: **you're not David, and every problem in your life isn't Goliath.**
6. This story is not primarily a motivational speech about finding the courage to conquer whatever obstacle stands in your way.
7. David is God's anointed king who steps forward to fight an enemy that God's people are powerless to defeat - and ultimately, he points us to Jesus, the greater King who defeats the enemy we could never defeat ourselves.
8. **So before this story is about what you need to do, it's about what God has done for you through Jesus - David and Goliath show us a picture of Jesus defeating what we could not defeat on our own..**
9. But that doesn't mean there's nothing here for us to learn about the battles we face.
10. Because as David walks toward Goliath, he shows us what it looks like to trust God when the situation is intimidating, the odds seem impossible, and everyone around you is afraid.
11. We may not be David, and our problems may not be Goliath, **but David's faith still teaches us how people who trust God respond when they face difficult things.**
12. So as we walk through this story, we're going to keep our eyes on the greater David - Jesus - while also asking a very practical question: **What does faith look like when something difficult is standing in front of me?**

17 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. ² 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^[a] cubits^[b] and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand

shekels^[c] of bronze. ⁶ And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ 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.

¹⁶ For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

1. Notice how the writer introduces Goliath.
2. We get an almost excessive amount of information about this guy.
3. His height. His helmet. His coat of armor. The weight of his armor. The bronze armor on his legs. The javelin on his back. The size of his spear. The weight of the spearhead. Even the man carrying his shield.
4. Why all the detail?
5. Because I think the writer wants us to feel what Israel felt when they looked at him.
 - a. Goliath is terrifying.
6. And notice where the story begins geographically.
7. Israel is on one mountain. The Philistines are on another.
8. And verse 3 says there is "a valley between them."
9. Eventually, somebody has to walk into that valley.
10. And nobody wants to.
11. Goliath steps forward and essentially says, *"Let's settle this through representatives. Send me your best man. If he defeats me, we'll serve you. If I defeat him, you serve us."*
12. And Israel freezes.
13. Verse 11 says, "When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."
14. But there's something important here: **Saul should be the one fighting.**
15. Don't miss that.
16. Back in 1 Samuel 9, when Saul is first introduced, we're told that he stood head and shoulders above everyone else in Israel.
17. He's the king. He's the leader. He's the warrior. He's the biggest guy Israel has.
18. If anybody should be walking into that valley, **it's Saul.**
19. But the tallest man in Israel is terrified of the tallest man in Philistia.
20. And that gives us the first lesson: **You'll never win the battles you're not willing to face.**
21. Saul has drawn up the battle lines, but he won't enter the battle.
22. *He's dressed like a king. He's standing with the army. He's surrounded by soldiers. But when the moment comes to step into the valley, he stays on the mountain.*
23. And I think all of us know what that's like.
24. Because it's possible to **know there's a battle and still avoid facing it.**

- a. You can know the conversation needs to happen - and keep putting it off.
 - b. You can know there's a problem - and keep pretending it's not that serious.
 - c. You can know a habit is hurting you - and keep telling yourself you'll deal with it later.
 - d. You can know something needs to change - and still be afraid to take the first step.
25. Because there are some battles you cannot win from a distance.
26. And fear will always give you a reason to wait.
27. *Maybe tomorrow. Maybe somebody else will handle it. Maybe this will eventually go away.*
28. But forty days later, Goliath is still there.
29. And that's the problem with avoidance:
- 30. Avoiding a battle may give you temporary relief, but it rarely gives you victory.**
31. Because the battles you refuse to face don't usually disappear.
- 32. They usually get louder.**
33. Here's what I mean: *Goliath doesn't just stand there.*
34. Goliath talks.
35. Verse 16 says, "For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening."
36. Morning and evening.
37. For forty days.
38. Do the math.
39. That's potentially **80 speeches from Goliath.**
- a. Eighty sermons on why Israel can't win.
 - b. Eighty reminders of how big he is.
 - c. Eighty declarations that Israel doesn't have what it takes.
 - d. Eighty opportunities for the people of God to rehearse their fear.
40. Which gives us the second lesson: **What you listen to repeatedly will eventually shape the way you see reality.**
41. Think about what happened to Israel.
42. The first time Goliath walked out, they saw a giant.
43. But after forty days of listening to him, they didn't just see a giant anymore.
44. *They saw an impossible giant.*
45. Nothing about Goliath had changed.
46. *But forty days of listening to him had changed them.*
47. That's what repeated voices do.
48. What you listen to long enough begins to shape what you believe is possible.
49. And some of us have been listening to our giants preach for a long time.
50. Every morning, the giant gets another sermon. "This is never going to change."
51. At lunch: "You're not going to make it."
52. Before bed: "Your kids are never coming back."
- a. "You'll always struggle with this."
 - b. "You're never going to recover from that."
 - c. "There's no way through this."
53. And maybe you've heard it so many times that you don't even recognize it as a voice anymore.
- 54. You just call it reality.**

55.

56. Here's the deal: maybe the first thing you need to do with your giant isn't fight it.

57. Maybe you need to stop letting it preach to you.

- a. You don't have to give every fear a microphone.
- b. You don't have to sit through every sermon your anxiety wants to preach.
- c. You don't have to keep rehearsing the voice that tells you God cannot do anything here.

58. So there are two questions sitting in this text: **What battle have you been unwilling to face?**

59. And: **What voice have you been listening to for too long?**

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years. ^[d] **13** 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. **16** For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

17 And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah^[e] of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. **18** Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."

19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. **20** And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. **21** And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. **22** And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers.

1. Now the camera leaves the battlefield and goes back to Bethlehem.
2. Three of David's brothers are with Saul, but verse 15 says:
3. "David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem."
4. Remember - David has already been anointed king.
5. Samuel has poured oil over his head. The Spirit of God has rushed upon him. David knows God has something significant for his future.
6. But he's been anointed—and he hasn't been enthroned.
7. There's a gap between God's promise and David's position.
8. And what does David do in the gap?

9. He goes back to the sheep.

10. He doesn't decide the pasture is beneath him because he's been promised a palace.

11. **David stays faithful in the pasture...**

12. Then Jesse gives him another assignment:

13. *Take some grain. Take some bread. Take some cheese. Check on your brothers.*

14. David could have said:

15. *"Dad, perhaps you missed the ceremony. Samuel was here. There was oil. It was a whole thing."*

16. *"I'm going to be king. Kings don't deliver cheese."*

17. But verse 20 says David **"rose early in the morning...and went, as Jesse had commanded him."**

18. And don't miss this:

19. David honors his father.

20. Last week we gave Jesse a hard time.

21. When Samuel came looking for the next king, Jesse brought seven sons before him - and David wasn't even invited into the room.

22. David had reason to feel overlooked.

23. **But David doesn't allow the way his father treated him to determine the kind of son he is going to be.**

24. Honoring someone doesn't mean pretending everything they've done is honorable.

25. It doesn't mean ignoring hurt or refusing healthy boundaries.

26. But somebody else's failure to act honorably doesn't give me permission to become dishonorable.

27. So David honors his father.

28. *And that simple act of obedience puts him on the road to Goliath.*

29. David doesn't wake up thinking, *"Today's the day I kill a giant."*

30. He wakes up thinking, *"Dad asked me to bring my brothers some food."*

31. That's how faithfulness works.

32. David is faithful before he knows where his faithfulness is taking him.

33. Don't waste your pasture.

34. The pasture wasn't a distraction from David's calling. **It was preparation for it.**

35. It's where he learned to protect what was entrusted to him. It's where he faced lions and bears. It's where he learned to trust God when nobody was watching.

36. And some of us are so consumed with asking, **"God, what's next?"**

37. ...that we're neglecting, **"God, what have You given me now?"**

38. Be faithful now.

a. Honor God in the ordinary.

b. Take care of what's been entrusted to you.

c. Do the next thing He's given you to do.

39. David had no idea what was waiting for him in the valley.

40. Sometimes the road to your Goliath starts with carrying a charcuterie board to your brothers.

41. Because Goliaths don't put themselves on your calendar.

42. You don't know when the defining moment is coming.

43. So stay faithful in the pasture.

44. You never know what God is preparing you for there.

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.

²⁴ All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. ²⁵ And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." ²⁶ And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" ²⁷ And the people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."

1. David arrives at the battlefield at exactly the moment Goliath comes out.
2. And notice this: **David hears exactly what everybody else hears.**
3. Goliath doesn't give David a different speech.
 - a. Same giant.
 - b. Same armor.
 - c. Same threats.
 - d. Same battlefield.
4. **I love how completely different David's response is from everyone else!**
5. Verse 24 says: "All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid."
6. Then David speaks in verse 26: "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
7. That's the first time anyone has talked like this.
8. **Everyone else sees Goliath in relation to themselves. David sees Goliath in relation to God.**
 - a. Israel says: **"Have you seen this man?"**
 - b. David essentially says: **"Have you remembered our God?"**
 - c. That's the difference.
 - d. Israel's equation is: **Goliath versus us.**
 - e. David's equation is: **Goliath versus God.**
9. And those produce radically different conclusions.
10. Here's one of the most important phrases in David's statement: **"the living God."**
11. Goliath isn't merely insulting Israel.
 - a. He's defying the living God.
12. David sees a theological reality everyone else has forgotten.
- 13. God is here.**
14. That's faith.
15. Faith doesn't mean David thinks Goliath is small.
16. Goliath is enormous.
17. **Faith simply refuses to calculate the odds without including God in the equation.**
18. Illustration - Your Thumb and My Face
19. Hold up your thumb.
20. If you position it correctly, your thumb can cover up my head.
21. Does that mean your thumb is bigger than my head?
22. Of course not.
23. It only means: **Your thumb is closer to your eyes.**
24. And sometimes that's what happens with our giants.
 - a. **The problem is close.**
 - b. The fear is close.
 - c. The conflict is close.
 - d. The bill is close.
 - e. The uncertainty is close.
25. And because it's close, it fills our vision.
26. Meanwhile God feels distant.

27. But perspective changes everything.

28. Your giant may be closer to you, but that doesn't mean your giant is bigger than your God.

29. Maybe you need to change the question.

30. Instead of: "How am I going to handle this?"

a. Ask: "Who is God in the middle of this?"

31. Instead of: "Do I have enough?"

a. Ask: "Has God changed?"

32. Instead of: "What if this doesn't work out the way I want?"

a. Ask: "Can I trust God even if I can't control the outcome?"

33. Faith isn't positive thinking. **Faith is God-centered thinking.**

34. Make sure God is that the center of your equations...

28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."**29** And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?" **30** And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before. Before David ever fights Goliath, he encounters another battle.

1. And now something fascinating happens.

2. Before David ever fights Goliath, **he has to deal with Eliab.**

3. His oldest brother gets angry.

4. And notice the accusations: "Why have you come down?"

5. "With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness?"

6. Then: "I know your presumption and the evil of your heart..."

7. That's personal.

8. Eliab doesn't just disagree with David.

9. He attacks David's motives and character.

10. And remember chapter 16.

11. Eliab was the brother Samuel looked at and thought: **"Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."**

12. But God passed over Eliab and chose David.

13. There may be some history underneath this conversation.

14. But here's what matters: **David refuses to let Eliab become his battle.**

15. Verse 30: "And he turned away from him toward another..."

16. That may be one of the most underrated acts of wisdom in this entire chapter.

17. He turned away.

18. David understands that not every attack deserves a response.

19. David could spend the rest of the day proving Eliab wrong.

20. He could say:

21. *"You want to talk about the sheep? Let's talk about why I'm here bringing you lunch!"*

22. He could defend his motives.

23. He could rehearse chapter 16: *"Remember Samuel? Remember the oil?"*

24. **But if David spends all his energy fighting Eliab, he never gets to Goliath.**

25. One of Satans greatest tactics is distraction...

26. It reminds me of hunters who use decoys -
27. A decoy exists for one purpose: **Get your attention off the real target.**
28. And criticism can become a decoy.
 - a. Somebody misunderstands you.
 - b. Somebody says something unfair.
 - c. Somebody questions your motives.
29. And suddenly you're spending enormous emotional energy defending yourself.
30. You're replaying the conversation in the shower.
31. You're constructing the perfect response while driving.
32. You're writing emails you probably shouldn't send.
33. *You're fighting Eliab.*
34. **Meanwhile, Goliath is still standing in the valley.**
35. ... Not every criticism deserves a response.
36. Not every social-media comment requires correction.
37. Not every misunderstanding requires an explanation.
38. Not every accusation requires your defense.
39. Sometimes spiritual maturity looks like verse 30: **"And he turned away..."**
40. Ask yourself: **Is this actually my battle?**
41. Because the enemy would be perfectly happy for you to win ten battles that don't matter if they keep you from the one act of obedience God has put in front of you.
42. **I wonder how many of us would never actually reach Goliath because we'd still be back arguing with Eliab.**

1. Ok - next Sunday we will look at the battle with Goliath - but...
2. Before David ever throws a stone, something has already happened.
3. ***David has won the battle of perspective.***
4. Israel sees a giant who is too big to defeat.
5. David sees a God who is too great to defy.
6. So before asking: **"How do I defeat my giant?"**
7. Maybe we first need to ask: **"How am I seeing my giant?"**
8. Because your giant gets really big when God gets really small.
9. But when you remember who God is, everything else begins to return to its proper size.
10. **This week:** Identify your giant.
11. Stop allowing it to preach to you every morning and evening.
12. Be faithful with what's currently in your hands.
13. And refuse to get distracted fighting Eliab when God has called you to face Goliath.

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."