

## DEALING WITH NEGATIVE PEOPLE

### Working Smart – Part 1 of 4

*“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10*

#### FOUR NAYSAYERS DAVID FACED BEFORE GOLIATH 1 Samuel 17:1-52

1. His **DAD** held him back

*“12 Now David was the youngest of Jesse’s eight sons... 13 His three older brothers enlisted in Saul’s army... 15 ...but David was held back to care for the sheep in Bethlehem.” 1 Samuel 17:12-13, 15*

- **Barrier #1: DELAY**

2. Everyone else was **AFRAID**.

- **Barrier #2: DISCOURAGEMENT**

*“8 Each day Goliath would stand and shout at the ranks of Israel’s army, ‘Why do you come out here and line up for battle?... Choose one man to fight me. 9 If he’s able to kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I kill him, you’ll become our subjects and serve us.’ 10 Day after day Goliath taunted them saying ‘This day I defy the ranks of Israel!’ 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, everyone was deeply shaken and paralyzed with fear.” 1 Samuel 17:8-11*

*“For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening, the Philistine giant loudly berated the Israelite army.” 1 Samuel 17:16*

*“23 As David talked with his brothers on the front line, he saw Goliath start shouting his usual threats to Israel’s army. 24 When the army heard Goliath, they all ran away in terror.” 1 Samuel 17:23-24*

**KEY TAKE-A-WAY:** Don’t hang around **NEGATIVE** people.

3. His brother questioned his **MOTIVES**

- **Barrier #3: DISAPPROVAL**

*“26 David asked, ‘What’s the reward for killing this Philistine and ending this disgraceful abuse?’... 28 When David’s older brother heard this, he burned with anger at David and said ‘Why are you even here anyway? Why aren’t you taking care of your scrawny little flock of sheep? You cocky little brat. I know how conceited you are!’ 29 ‘Now what have I done?’ said David. ‘Can’t I even ask a question?’” 1 Samuel 17:26, 28-29*

4. The **EXPERTS** doubted his ability

*“32 Don’t worry about a thing,’ David told the King, ‘I’ll fight this Philistine!’ 33 ‘Don’t be ridiculous!’ Saul replied. ‘There’s no way you can go against this Philistine! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a professional warrior all his life!’” 1 Samuel 17:32-33*

#### HOW TO DEFEAT NAYSAYERS IN YOUR LIFE

1. **REMEMBER THEY ARE NOT GOD!**

*“The fear of human opinion disables; but trusting in God protects you from that.” Proverbs 29:25*

*“It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you...” Proverbs 29:25*

*“Do not fear anything except the Lord Almighty. He alone is the Holy One. If you fear him, you need fear nothing else.” Isaiah 8:13*

- Who am I **ALLOWING** to play God in my life?

2. Don’t get **DISTRACTED**

**KEY TRUTH #1: Every opportunity comes with OPPOSITION.**

*"3 So, I replied by sending this message to them: 'I am doing a great work! I cannot stop to come and meet with you.' 4 Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply." Nehemiah 6:3-4*

*"Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are." Matthew 10:26*

**3. Never ATTACK back**

*"It is foolish to speak scornfully of others. If you are smart, you will keep quiet." Proverbs 11:12*

*"When they hurled their insults at Jesus, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." 1 Peter 2:23*

**KEY TRUTH #2: I am most like Jesus when I stay SILENT when I'm under attack.**

**4. Stay FOCUSED on God and His promises**

*"...bitter people spoke against David and talked of stoning him, but David found strength in the Lord." 1 Samuel 30:6*

*"The Lord is for me, so I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Psalm 118:6*

*"41 Show me how much you love me, Lord, and save me according to your promise. 42 Then I can answer those who insult me because I trust in your word." Psalm 119:41-42*

*"I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart..." Psalm 119:11a*