

Be Ready

I saw a video clip of an old Johnny Carson show where a concert pianist was going to perform but had injured his hand just before the show and canceled. Johnny asked if anyone in the crowd had studied piano for at least 5 yrs. Several people pointed to a young man who was dressed in blue jeans, a Nike t- shirt and sandals. He came down, played like a seasoned professional and it changed his life. He went on to be a professional and played many venues. The article with the video said “we should always be prepared. He was prepared. Johnny asked for a pianist, he answered the call, and it changed his life.”

David was ready. As a young boy, the youngest of Jesse’s 8 sons. Because he was the youngest, he was often overlooked and sent to tend sheep, which was a very menial task. His brothers all had important jobs in line with their father’s business. He was often left to his own devices and would daydream while tending the sheep. He spent time talking to God and worshiping Him. He took time to KNOW God. While he tended sheep, he often had to fight off wild beasts, like bears to save his sheep.

For 40 days, the Philistine giant, Goliath, taunted the Israelites morning and evening. He challenged them to send out a single champion to fight him, proposing that the losing side would become servants to the victors. One day David heard them talking about him and stepped forward. He wanted to go to battle against the giant. Everyone laughed. He was not yet a man! How could he survive a meeting much less conquer the massive man. But David was ready.

"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 the Philistine. (1 Samuel 17:37).

As Sunday School students we learned about David’s victory over the giant. It is a favorite story of children because he was not yet a man. But as children, we cannot comprehend God’s part in this story. How does a “boy” face a giant (mean and fearsome), armed only with a sling and a few rocks. As David stepped up to meet Goliath, the giant laughed. “Is this the best you have to offer? A boy?”. David picked up his stone, put it in his sling, swung it around a few times and let it go. The stone met its mark in the forehead of the giant. Instantly bringing him down. David had been ready. There was no hesitation. He simply did what God told him

to do. God had prepared him; God was with him. What more could David ask. He certainly didn't need more. Neither do we. We fight battles every day that no one else sees. God prepares us often through the bible and worship. We know that for these daily battles, we should daily put on the full armor of God. So that we too, can fight.

Lord, help us to be in the Bible, to get to know you more every day. Prepare us for the battles that we face and give us the knowledge that you will be with us always.
Amen

Shirlene Peterson