



David & Goliath

Kicking It Off:

Can you think of a time when you took a step of faith that seemed counterintuitive or even foolish to others, but you knew it was what God was calling you to do? What happened?

Read:

1 Samuel
17:41-49

Summary

In this sermon, we explored three paradoxical truths that are central to the Christian life: success, life, and peace. These paradoxes challenge our worldly understanding and call us to align our hearts with God's heart.

First, we considered the paradox of success. While the world teaches us to pursue success through our own strength, intelligence, and hard work, the Bible presents a different path - one of submission, humility, and obedience to God's ways. The story of David and Goliath powerfully illustrates this, showing that true success depends on trusting in God's power rather than human wisdom or resources. As Christians, we must be careful not to fall into the trap of measuring success by worldly standards, but instead focus on wielding spiritual weapons and fighting God's way.

Next, we come to the paradox of life. In our modern society, self-preservation is often seen as paramount. However, we are called to identify what we would be

willing to die for - whether it's family, faith, or a greater cause - and to live for those same things. David's example reminds us that when our lives are rooted in God, we can face even the threat of death with confidence, knowing that our true life is secure in Him. As followers of Christ, we are called to be "living sacrifices," dying to our old selves in order to find true, abundant life in Him.

Finally, we considered the paradox of peace. True peace, it turns out, comes not from avoiding conflict at all costs, but from being willing to fight for what truly matters. This doesn't mean being combative or attacking those who disagree with us. Rather, it means lovingly speaking truth, even when it's hard. As we engage with others from a place of conviction and strength, wielding the weapons of love and God's Word, we have the opportunity to transform lives and relationships. This upside-down approach to peace is challenging, requiring deep faith, hope, and sacrificial love. But it is the way of Jesus, and the path to real peace in our souls and our world.

In conclusion, embracing these paradoxes is not easy, but it is the way we are called to walk as followers of Christ. By aligning our hearts with God's heart and living out these counterintuitive truths, we can find true success, life, and peace in Him.

Discussion Questions

1. In the sermon, we learned that true success comes from submitting to God's ways rather than relying on our own strength and wisdom. The story of David and Goliath illustrates this powerfully. **Can you share an experience where you chose to trust in God's power rather than your own abilities? What was the outcome, and how did it impact your faith?**
2. The sermon challenged us to consider what we would be willing to die for, and to live for those same things. It's a sobering thought, but one that can bring clarity and purpose to our lives. **What are the things in your life that you would be willing to die for? How does this knowledge shape your priorities and the way you live day-to-day?**

3. We learned that being a "living sacrifice" means dying to our old selves so that we can find true life in Christ. This is a challenging concept, but one that is at the heart of the Gospel. **What are some practical ways that you have "died to self" in your own life? How has this surrender brought you closer to Jesus and the abundant life He promises?**
4. The sermon presented a paradoxical view of peace - that it comes not from avoiding conflict, but from being willing to fight for what matters. We are called to speak truth in love, even when it's difficult. **Can you think of a time when you had to lovingly speak truth to someone, even though it was hard? How did you approach the situation, and what was the result?**
5. We were reminded that walking out these paradoxical truths requires deep faith, hope, and sacrificial love. It's not an easy path, but it is the way of Jesus. **Which of these three paradoxes (success, life, or peace) do you find most challenging to embrace in your own life? What are some steps you can take this week to align your heart more fully with God's heart in this area?**

Bible Passage

1 Samuel 17:41-49 ESV

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 despised 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." 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.

Outline

- I. The Paradox of Success
 - A. The world's path to success
 1. Pursuing success through our own strength, intelligence, and hard work
 2. Relying on human wisdom and resources

- B. God's path to success
 - 1. Submission, humility, and obedience to God's ways
 - 2. The story of David and Goliath: trusting in God's power, not human strength or strategy
 - C. True success in ministry
 - 1. Avoiding the trap of worldly measures like size or budget
 - 2. Focusing on wielding spiritual weapons and fighting God's way
- II. The Paradox of Life
- A. Society's view on the value of life
 - 1. Modern times: self-preservation is paramount
 - 2. Historical perspective: willingness to lay down one's life for deeply held beliefs
 - B. Finding clarity in what we would die for
 - 1. Identifying what we would give our lives for (family, faith, a greater cause)
 - 2. Understanding that what we would die for and what we live for should be the same
 - C. David's example of a life rooted in God
 - 1. Facing Goliath, even if it meant death, because his life was secure in God
 - 2. As followers of Christ, we are called to be "living sacrifices"
 - D. The paradox of losing life to find it
 - 1. Clinging to our lives and living for ourselves leads to loss
 - 2. Surrendering our lives to God leads to abundant and eternal life
- III. The Paradox of Peace
- A. The world's understanding of peace
 - 1. Avoiding conflict at all costs
 - 2. Surrounding ourselves with like-minded people and staying within our "bubbles"
 - B. True peace: being willing to fight for what matters
 - 1. Knowing what's worth fighting for and grounding ourselves in those convictions

2. Engaging with others from a place of strength, not being combative or attacking
- C. The weapons we wield
1. Love and God's Word
 2. Fighting against lies, misunderstandings, and dark forces that blind people to truth
- D. Transforming lives through loving engagement
1. Welcoming others into our lives, listening to them, and lovingly speaking truth
 2. Some may reject us, but others might have their eyes opened by experiencing truth wrapped in unconditional love
- E. The challenge and necessity of this approach
1. It requires deep faith, hope, and genuine, sacrificial love for others
 2. It is the paradoxical way of the Kingdom and the path to real peace.

Notes

I believe the key to true success in life is having a heart that is aligned with God's heart. The world teaches us to pursue success through our own strength, intelligence and hard work. But the Bible presents a different, almost paradoxical path to success - one of submission, humility and obedience to God's ways rather than our own.

The story of David and Goliath illustrates this well. King Saul, operating by the world's wisdom, tried to equip David with conventional armor and weapons. But David realized that was not how God had trained and prepared him. Instead, he faced Goliath with just a sling and stones, the unconventional tools God had given him mastery over as a shepherd. To onlookers it seemed crazy, but David understood the battle depended on God's power, not human strength or strategy.

We need to be careful not to fall into the trap of determining success, even for churches, by worldly measures like size or budget. Our true battle is not against flesh and blood, but against dark spiritual forces. Victory depends on wielding the spiritual weapons God gives us and fighting His way, not relying on human wisdom and resources.

This doesn't mean being passive in the face of opposition to God. We are called to fight and speak truth. But we must do it God's way, not by putting people down or lashing out in our own strength and emotions. Meditation on God's Word day and night is key, so that like a firmly rooted tree, we prosper not by the world's standards, but by God's.

I believe that to truly understand the purpose and value of life, we must grapple with the question of what we are willing to die for. In modern times, society teaches us that nothing is worth dying for, that self-preservation is paramount. But historically, people have been willing to lay down their lives for things they believed in deeply, like their country.

When we identify what we would give our lives for - whether it's family, faith, or a cause greater than ourselves - it brings clarity to what we should live for. Because in reality, what we would die for and what we live for should be one and the same.

The story of David facing Goliath illustrates this profound truth. The Israelite soldiers were understandably afraid to fight Goliath. From a human perspective, it made no sense to risk their lives against such a powerful foe. But David was willing to face Goliath, even if it meant death, because his life was rooted in God. He understood that with God's Spirit living in him, his life was secure even if his physical body perished.

As followers of Christ, we are called to this same radical mindset - to present ourselves as "living sacrifices", no longer conforming to the self-centered ways of the world but allowing our minds to be renewed by God. Just as a seed must fall to the ground and die to sprout into something new, we must die to our old selves to find true life.

It's a paradox, but a profound one: clinging to our lives and living for ourselves leads to loss, but surrendering our lives to God and His purposes leads to life abundant and eternal, even if it costs us everything in this world. That is the upside-down way of the Kingdom, and the path to real purpose and meaning.

I believe that the path to true peace is paradoxical - it comes not from avoiding conflict at all costs, but from being willing to fight for what truly matters. In our world, we're often taught that the key to peace is to surround ourselves with like-minded people, stay within our "bubbles," and never rock the boat. But living that way doesn't bring real peace, only a superficial sense of calm that's easily shattered.

True peace comes from knowing what's worth fighting for, grounding ourselves in those convictions, and engaging with others from that place of strength. It doesn't mean being combative or attacking those who disagree. Rather, it means loving people enough to speak truth to them, even when it's hard. Like David facing Goliath, we're called to rely not on human strength and weapons, but on God's power.

The weapons we wield are love and God's Word. We fight not against flesh and blood, but against lies, misunderstandings, and the dark forces that blind people to truth. Victory comes not through out-arguing others, but through persistently loving them while holding fast to what's true.

Imagine the transformation that could happen if we engaged those we disagreed with in this way - welcoming them into our lives, listening to them,

but also gently and lovingly speaking truth. Some would reject us. But others might have their eyes opened because they experienced truth wrapped in unconditional love.

This isn't easy. It takes deep faith that God's ways are best, even when they seem foolish to the world. It takes hope in the unseen realities beyond this life. And most of all, it takes genuine, sacrificial love for others. But I believe this upside-down approach is the only path to real peace - in our own souls and in our painfully divided world. It's the way of Jesus, and the way we're called to walk.

David & Goliath

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

The story of David and Goliath is one of the most well-known and inspiring accounts in the Bible. It is a timeless tale of an underdog who, against all odds, emerges victorious through unwavering faith, unshakable courage, and complete reliance on God. This story resonates with us because we all face giants in our lives—challenges, obstacles, and enemies that seem insurmountable. In the New Testament, Paul writes about another type of battle that believers face: the spiritual battle against the forces of darkness. In Ephesians 6, Paul describes the armor of God, a metaphorical set of spiritual equipment that enables Christians to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. This armor is not physical, but rather represents the spiritual resources and tools that God provides for His children. At first glance, the story of David and Goliath and Paul's teaching on the armor of God may seem unrelated. However, upon closer examination, we discover that the principles David

embodied in his battle against Goliath are the same principles that Paul encourages believers to embrace in their spiritual battles.

Trusting in God's Strength

One of the most important aspects of David's victory over Goliath is his unwavering trust in God's strength. When David stepped onto the battlefield, he was not relying on his own abilities or weapons, but rather on the power of the Almighty. In 1 Samuel 17:45-47, David boldly declares to Goliath, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied... All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." David's words reveal a deep understanding of where true strength lies. He recognized that his victory would not come through human means, but through the Lord. This trust in God's strength is echoed in Paul's exhortation to believers in Ephesians 6:10, where he writes, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Paul understood that the spiritual battles we face cannot be won through our own efforts, but only through relying on the strength that God provides.

In our own lives, we often face giants that seem too powerful to overcome. Whether it's a personal struggle, a relational conflict, or a spiritual attack, we can easily feel overwhelmed and helpless. However, David's example reminds us that we are not alone in these battles. Just as David trusted in God's strength to defeat Goliath, we too can trust in God's mighty power to overcome the challenges we face. The application for us is clear: we must recognize that our strength comes from God, not ourselves. This means acknowledging our own limitations and weaknesses, and humbly seeking God's help and guidance. It means daily surrendering our battles to Him, trusting that He will fight for us and give us the victory. When we rely on God's strength, we can face our giants with confidence, knowing that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work within us (Ephesians 1:19-20).

Rejecting Fear and Doubt

Another key aspect of David's victory over Goliath was his ability to reject fear and doubt, both in himself and others. When David first expressed his desire to

fight Goliath, he was met with skepticism and discouragement from his older brother and King Saul. In 1 Samuel 17:33, Saul tells David, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." However, David refused to let their doubts and fears deter him. He had confidence in God's ability to deliver him, and he boldly stepped out in faith to confront the giant.

In Ephesians 6:16, Paul writes about the shield of faith as a crucial piece of the armor of God. He states, "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." The shield of faith is our protection against the attacks of the enemy, including the arrows of fear, doubt, and discouragement that he seeks to use against us. Like David, we will face situations where others express doubt or fear about our ability to overcome challenges. We may even battle with these feelings within ourselves. However, we must choose to reject fear and doubt, and instead take up the shield of faith. This means choosing to trust in God's promises and power, even when the situation seems impossible.

The application for us is to consciously choose faith over fear and doubt when facing challenges. This requires a daily decision to focus on God's truth rather than our own emotions or the opinions of others. It means reminding ourselves of God's faithfulness in the past, and trusting that He will continue to be faithful in the present and future.

Standing Firm in Righteousness

David's victory over Goliath was not just a result of his courage and faith, but also his righteousness. In 1 Samuel 17:26, David expresses his outrage at Goliath's defiance of the armies of the living God, asking, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" David's words reveal a heart that was deeply committed to God's honor and glory. His righteousness was rooted in his relationship with God, and this gave him the strength and confidence to face Goliath.

In Ephesians 6:14, Paul writes about the breastplate of righteousness as another essential piece of the armor of God. He exhorts believers to "stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate

of righteousness in place." The breastplate of righteousness is a powerful defense against the enemy's attacks, guarding our hearts and minds from his lies and temptations. Like David, our righteousness should be rooted in our relationship with God. This means living a life that is consistent with God's character and will, and seeking to honor Him in all that we do. When we cultivate a deep relationship with God, we become more attuned to His voice and more equipped to resist the enemy's schemes.

The application for us is to actively cultivate a righteous life through a deep relationship with God. This involves spending time in prayer and Bible study, seeking to know God more intimately and to align our lives with His purposes. It means being quick to confess and repent of sin, and pursuing holiness in every area of our lives.

Wielding the Word of God

One of the most powerful aspects of David's victory over Goliath was his use of God's Word. In 1 Samuel 17:45-47, David declares to Goliath, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied... All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." David's words were not just empty boasts, but a reflection of his deep faith in God's promises. He knew that God had promised to fight for His people, and he trusted in that promise as he faced Goliath.

In Ephesians 6:17, Paul writes about the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. He urges believers to take up this sword as part of the armor of God, using it to combat the attacks of the enemy. The Word of God is a powerful weapon against the lies, temptations, and accusations of the devil. When we know and trust in God's promises, we can stand firm against the enemy's schemes. Like David, we need to wield the Word of God in our spiritual battles. This means knowing Scripture, meditating on it, and applying it to our lives. When we face temptation, we can use God's Word to remind ourselves of His truth and to resist the enemy's lies. When we face fear or doubt, we can use God's Word to strengthen our faith and to trust in His power.

The application for us is to actively use Scripture to combat spiritual attacks and temptations. This involves reading and studying the Bible regularly, memorizing key verses, and applying its truths to our daily lives. It means being quick to recall God's promises when we face challenges or difficulties, and using His Word to guide our thoughts and actions.

Embracing Our Identity in Christ

A crucial factor in David's victory over Goliath was his understanding of his identity. In 1 Samuel 16:13, we read about David being anointed by Samuel as the future king of Israel. This anointing was a symbol of God's choice and favor upon David, and it gave him a sense of purpose and destiny. When David faced Goliath, he did so not just as a shepherd boy, but as God's anointed one. His identity was found in his relationship with God, and this gave him the confidence and courage to face the giant.

In Ephesians 6:17, Paul writes about the helmet of salvation as another vital piece of the armor of God. The helmet of salvation is a reminder of our identity in Christ, and the eternal security that we have through faith in Him. When we put on the helmet of salvation, we are declaring that we belong to God, and that our ultimate destiny is secure in Him. Like David, we need to embrace our identity in Christ. This means understanding that we are not defined by our past failures, our present circumstances, or the opinions of others. Instead, we are defined by God's love and grace, and the fact that we are His beloved children. When we embrace our identity in Christ, we can face the challenges and struggles of life with confidence and hope.

The application for us is to find our confidence and security in our identity as children of God. This means regularly reminding ourselves of who we are in Christ, and the promises that God has made to us. It means rejecting the lies of the enemy that seek to undermine our sense of worth and purpose, and instead clinging to the truth of God's Word.

David's victory over Goliath demonstrates the power of faith, courage, and dependence on God. By applying the principles of the armor of God, we can face the spiritual battles in our lives with the same confidence and strength. As we trust in God, reject fear, stand firm in righteousness, wield the Word of God,

and embrace our identity in Christ, we will be equipped to overcome any giant that stands in our way.

1. David's unwavering trust in God's strength was a key factor in his victory over Goliath. Similarly, Paul encourages believers to be strong in the Lord and rely on His mighty power. **In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to trust in God's strength rather than your own abilities? How can you actively surrender these areas to God and rely on His power?**
2. David's identity as God's anointed one gave him confidence and courage to face Goliath. As believers, we are called to embrace our identity in Christ, which provides us with security and purpose. **How does understanding your identity as a child of God impact the way you approach challenges and spiritual battles in your life? What practical steps can you take to remind yourself of your identity in Christ daily?**