

Jesus, our deliverer from fear

It seems like we live in a world where one minute is peaceful, things are good, and for a moment life is enjoyable and then in a blink – we are engulfed in great chaos that brings great fear. ... Terrorism, mass shootings, and economic crisis bring fear upon us in powerful ways. But sometimes – feeling that nudged to pray with a friend or our spouse in the midst of personal chaos – is more fear-filled than all these other things combined. Seeing Christians beheaded by Isis – can make us fear-full. But thinking about standing up against the family bully who is always railing on Christians – can grip our hearts with fear that often paralyzes us.

Fear in and of itself – is not bad or evil. It is an emotion that simply exposes the heart - our heart. Some fears just express physical danger – *fire, open doors to our home. These are good. They help us.* Other fears keep us from following and knowing God. The fears that keep us following and knowing God- are evil.

I don't know what your greatest fear is – but you do. You probably don't have to think about it. And, I can almost guarantee when your great fear strikes – it tempts you to not follow God. That's what they do.

What if I told you that you don't have to live under the weight of these fears anymore?

What if God could unveil these fears as mere shadows - who have no power over you?

Pic-OZ - *What if God ripped back the curtain on your fear and exposed it as a weak old man - like the Wizard?*

There are fears that keep us from following and knowing God.

*These fears lie to us in many ways. One of their biggest lies says we have to go battle these giants and win a victory by our will. The lie says, like David – we have to go face our giants defeat them if we ever want to live free of the bondage of these fears that keeps us from following and knowing God. **Today I want to tell you straight up front where God is going to take us in this passage because I believe it offers freedom to us all in a powerful and life changing way.***

Truth – On the cross Jesus defeated every fear that keeps us from following and knowing God.

Freedom comes as we trust His *past* victory and follow His Spirit *today* - in the midst of our fear.

Let me say it as a proposition – as a truth that can lead us from fear to freedom.

To follow Jesus despite fear – we must trust Jesus has already delivered us from all fear.

There are 3 questions to be answered if the power of this truth is going to free our hearts from fear.

01. What has Jesus done to deliver us from fear?

02. Why do we feel like **WE** have to win a battle if fear is to be conquered?

03. How do we follow Jesus in the victory He gives us over fear(s) that paralyze our obedience?

01. What has Jesus done to deliver us from fear?

In just about every passage of God's Word in the OT (*that which was written to us before Christ's life, death, and rez*), we have two equally important truths being communicated to us.

1) Thru the characters and events we encounter, how are we to understand and experience who God is or how He is calling us to live?

Last week – Like David, God calls us to walk in His Spirit if we are to make much of His name in the midst of fear.

2) How is this passage a picture of our need for deliverance or a picture of the reality of our deliverance in Christ Jesus from our broken and sinful condition?

This week – We will see our need and the reality of our deliverance from sin and its fear.

1 Samuel 17:48-50 (ESV) 48 ... 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. 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.

David – *by the power of God's Spirit* – did something miraculous – **he completely defeated a giant who should have killed him quickly.** But David did something more – *than just kill this giant. By God's Spirit - He delivered the entire nation of Israel from sure slavery and oppression by defeating this giant.*

This is a picture of Christ's deliverance – of us from the slavery of sin.

Reminder – There was a stalemate between two armies. Israel on one mountain ridge and the Philistines were on another ridge. The terrain made a charge up either ridge impractical. So a giant – literally the Philistines champion called Goliath came to the valley between with a challenge – *mano y mano*. Winner take all. *Hear the challenge!*

1 Samuel 17:9-11 (ESV) 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. *He was defiling, defaming God's name*
The army, nation, and God's name needed to be delivered from Goliath – One man delivered them. We needed to be delivered from the power of sin- its fear and death that separates us from God now and forever. And One Man - JESUS DELIVERED us.

- Jesus delivered us from the power of sin by completely defeating sin.

1 Samuel 17:51 (ESV) 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. David dropped and mortally wounded Goliath with the stone. But to make sure he wasn't just mostly dead and to prove to Israel and the Philistines that Goliath was no longer the champion – David cut his head off and completely defeated Goliath.

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV) For Christ also suffered *once* for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,
Sin was completely defeated by Jesus at the cross. He took all our guilt, shame, and punishment at the cross. Like David's defeat of Goliath that was brutal and bloody. Jesus suffered and died in the most brutal and bloody way to completely defeat sin. He didn't just tame sin or make it mostly dead – like David, he cut its head off & completely destroyed its power.

John 19:30 (ESV) (Jesus) he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. His last words on the cross – proclaimed His work to defeat sin was done!

- In completely defeating sin, Jesus has delivered us from the power of sin's fear(s) that keep us from following and knowing God.

Let me give you a practical example of this:

How hard is it for you to follow Jesus and know Jesus when you have to live in the midst of a family member or friend who makes it hard to follow Jesus?

*I know some of you struggle with this. And, it is a fear that paralyzes you at times from following Jesus. You want to follow Him - but your spouse, or your dad, or your kids – make it really difficult. You **FEAR** facing their wrath, but even worse – you fear losing their approval.* Approval is a great giant of fear. But why if Jesus has defeated sin and all its fears that keep us from following God.

The glowing closet at age 10 – two choices as I saw it: hide or 2) attack the aliens. I hid bc in the darkness I was convinced I would die if I moved.

Darkness deceives us. The fear that sin speaks to us - operates in the same way.

(Goliath lied – they didn't become slaves they ran. – Darkness lies.)

We fear losing "their" approval – because we believe the lie that their approval is needed.

We fear losing "their" approval – because we don't believe God's approval that we have gained at the cross is better and sweeter than any other approval we could ever get.

Ephesians 5:8, 11, 13 (ESV) 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light.

I had a third option in my bed: I could have yelled for help. Dad would have flipped on light and exposed all.

In Christ – through His life, death, and rez – we are delivered from all the power of sin -

One of sin's power - is that it lies to us from the darkness and paralyzes us with fear.

The lies make us believe they are giants to be feared or that must be attacked. Reality – in the light of God's truth we see they are already defeated. Fears are just shadows of a once terrifying and powerful enemy.

IT IS FINISHED! - When we trust we have GOD'S approval thru Christ – and it is better than all other approvals – we will walk thru the fear and follow Jesus. Whether that means speak truth and love, be silent and love, serve, or whatever – we will follow and risk losing their approval bc we trust God's approval is better and that in Christ is ours bc of an act already accomplished in Jesus victory over sin.

He slayed the giant of approval on the cross that paralyzes us in fear. *(Cutting its head off!)*

I then can follow him in victory right into that fear. *Just like the men of Israel followed David.*

1 Samuel 17 :51-52 (ESV) 51 ... 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 and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron

In completely defeating sin, Jesus has delivered us from the power of sin's fear(s) that keep us from following and knowing God.

Larry the bully - in 5th grade that led to a "Ralphie from The Christmas Story explosion / fight –I was done and believed I needed to stand up to this bully to make him go away.

02. Why do we feel like **we** have to win a battle if fear is to be conquered?

- Paralyzing fear lies to us and says – the only way out is if you do something.

When we feel trapped in an ongoing fear – we often believe the lie: the only thing you have to fear is fear itself and a lot of other great poster slogans that work for a moment but they will not defeat the giant of fear over a lifetime. Might standing up to the bully - led to another fight that I did not want. I began to learn something that day ... You don't get rid of bully by standing up to him – if the bully can whip you!

If the fear you are facing is greater than your will – you will not defeat it over and over again – or we would not call it FEAR! We would call it a challenge or a goal. We buy the lie and fight.

- Bad teaching that feeds our pride - leads us to believe we have to win the battle against fear.

Facing the Giants – Was not a movie about walking in the victory of Jesus against great fears – and seeing some cost us everything. It was about a coach's courage to run head long into his giants and slay them all.

Teacher advertising to speak at churches and her big push was called "Slaying Your Giants of Fear."

1 Samuel 17 :36-37 (ESV) 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."

David did not strike down the lion or bear. Out of his own mouth, The LORD delivered me. And who does he credit for the deliverance from the Philistine – the LORD.

We don't deliver – rescue – save – redeem anyone – the LORD alone is our Deliverer.

We are not called to fight the giants of fear in our life. **Jesus has already delivered us from their power.**

Romans 8:1 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Fight your fears with your courage and your will - and you will be in battles forever.

Walk in the obedience Jesus' victory gives you over fear and you will be free. - Matt Chandler

03. How do we follow Jesus in the victory He gives us over fear(s) that paralyze our obedience?

What keeps you from following Jesus in the victory He gives you over the fears that paralyze your obedience?

What moved the Israelite soldiers off their place of hiding and down into the valley to chase the Philistines and kill them all over the country-side? *Let's look at the passage again.*

1 Samuel 17 :51-52 (ESV) 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 and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

* **David cut off the head of their greatest fear.** *It was a devastating and complete victory - and they trusted they had been delivered. So they came out of hiding and ran headlong into their fear because of David's victory.*

Jesus has completely defeated sin – delivering us at the cross. Will we trust it is "finished"?

Fears are real. The fear of losing approval is powerful. *Maybe your giant is control. Or, maybe it is comfort.*

These giants taunt and ridicule you and your God. And, they lie. Their lie says the approval, control, or comfort you desire is better than any approval, control, or comfort God can give – so don't follow Him.

They say "sit down"! 1) Approval says- Don't get up and follow Jesus. It will cost you approval you need. 1)

Control says - If you obey and do what He asks you will lose control. The chaos will overwhelm you. 3) Comfort -

This is my great fear. It is risky to give your time and life investing Jesus in that person or those people. Conflict and mess will come and you will lose your comfort. And you will be exposed. "Sit down. You will lose so much."

The first step out of your place of hiding to follow Jesus in His victory is to confess –

1) Confess – Jesus I struggle trusting that your victory is complete - *that you are my Deliverer.*

I often just see the cross as an eternal life insurance policy that has no bearing on this life.

I don't see your work on the cross as complete and total.

When we obey our fears vs obeying our Deliverer, we are saying:

"Fears you are greater than Jesus – my Deliverer."

We must see this, confess this. Don't let your pride say no – I don't think this.

Not asking what you think. I am asking you what your heart trusts – that leads to how you act.

When you are paralyzed by a fear that keeps you from following Jesus – your heart trusts this:

"That my fears are greater than Jesus – my Deliverer."

2) Repent -

- Turn to Jesus as a greater champion than your fear.

- Walking in Jesus' victory may mean he calms the chaos around you.

God does not heal the body, give us jobs, or keep us safe – because we obey.

That is prosperity gospel – That was the theme of Facing the Giants.

God heals, provides, and protects bc Jesus obeyed & to make much of his name.

- Walking in Jesus' victory always means he calms the chaos within – but it may cost you.

Jesus walking into his fear – cost him his life. BUT IT DELIVERED US.

You walking into your fear – make cost you. But our Deliverer has more for you in His presence, His love, His approval, His ... than you will ever lose following Him.

Back to our battle in the passage: Only one man had fallen - Goliath. The Philistines still had the greater army. The numbers, their weapons, the veteran soldiers, their reputation – all said. We are greater than you even without Goliath. Yet the Israelites who one minute earlier were dismayed and full of paralyzing fear – charged down the valley and pursued the Philistines 6-12 miles. They fought and killed men for miles moving in the wake of David's deliverance. Why? Why?

They believed their Deliverer gave them the upper hand. David – uh maybe. But bigger – they now saw and trusted God as their deliverer. Their hearts changed and their actions followed because they believed – they trusted their Deliverer (The LORD) was greater.

Look at Jesus and see He is greater and more powerful than all your fears combined.

The whole army of your fears cannot stand against our Deliverer.

This week was a crazy week. DP called Sunday, overwhelmed I talked to a lot of A29 pastors, Wednesday I was done – afraid of failing my friends, afraid of the enemy who takes our leaders, afraid for me - and texted my fellow pastors here. I physically reminded of my Deliverer by my friends as they prayed. My wife spoke truth over me. Three other guys called me and I heard the mercy of Christ and the truth of His deliverance.

Every time you look in the Word – stare at your Deliverer. Every time you hear the Word preached or taught – see the greatness of your Deliver. Every time you are confronted by a giant fear – remind yourself, preach to yourself, pray and ask the Spirit to increase your affection and trust in your deliver.

- Step out into your fear with others - trusting Jesus has delivered you from your fear.

52 And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines

Who will give the shout? **Jesus has delivered us! Let's go, let's follow Him!**

When we trust Jesus has already delivered us from all fear – we can follow him into our fear.