

BIG IDEA: LIVING IN GOD'S SPIRIT BRINGS COURAGE TO EXALT GOD'S NAME IN THE FACE OF FEAR**I. Introduction**

- A. A couple weeks ago we started this series, Life in Chaos. We are looking at the life of David as someone who, as we will see in the coming weeks and months, lived in chaos most of his life, and yet constantly experienced God breathing life and being present in the midst of his chaos.
- B. As I have been process through this series, and specifically this passage, one of the questions that has been on my heart is, "What is moves me away from chaos? Obviously, I think we would all prefer to live a chaos free life, but there are times, at least in my life that I avoid chaos at all costs. I avoid putting my 2-year-old to bed because I know how much of a fight she will put up. I avoid the conversation with my wife because I know it may lead to an argument. I avoid serving in different ways because of the effect it may have on my schedule and my comfort. And the question that I have been wrestling with, and the one I want to ask you this morning is, "What causes fear of chaos?" not necessarily fear IN chaos, but what causes us to go to great lengths to flat out avoid chaos?
1. Most of us in here would probably agree that we live in one of the most, if not the most secure countries on the planet. Set your political opinion aside, the reality is, we are still more secure and protected than probably every other country. But as recent years have shown us, and as the media has proved, we are becoming more and more afraid. I don't know about you, but every time I go to the airport there is still a little bit of anxiousness in me, despite the fact that airport security has increased exponentially in the last 15 years. We spend more today than we ever have on our defenses, and yet we are still afraid.
 - a) Kanye West and Kim K. spend a million a year on security for their daughter alone
 - b) Howard Schultz, the CEO of Starbucks spends \$600,000 a year on a security team
 - c) Amazon paid 1.2 million every year to protect their CEO
 - d) On a local level, I was talking with my neighbor this week and he, maybe like some of you, moved to this area because he didn't feel as secure living in north county
 2. **And I believe the problem of fear lies in what drives our search for courage.**

II. Introduce Big Idea

- A. Tim Keller says, "One of the most interesting things about the study of the Holy Spirit in the Bible is how often the coming of the Spirit is associated with courage."

1. Examples:

- a) Judges 14:6: Samson is attacked by a lion

Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat.

- b) Acts 4: Peter and John are threatened with being arrested, or killed, if they continue to preach the Gospel. They gather the believers and begin to pray, mentioning David.

Acts 4:31 - And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

- c) Matthew 3: Jesus' baptism - the Spirit of God comes and rests on him, and almost immediately he is taken into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for 40 days.

Matthew 3:16 - And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him

- B. 1 Samuel 16:13:

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward.

BIG IDEA: LIVING IN GOD'S SPIRIT BRINGS COURAGE TO EXALT GOD'S NAME IN THE FACE OF FEAR**C. BIG IDEA: Living out of God's Spirit brings courage to exalt God's name in the face of fear**

III. Living for our name brings pride

A. 1 Samuel 17:1-10

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 cubits 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 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.

1. Picture of Goliath

a) **Six cubits and a span** = somewhere between 8'5" and 9'2"

b) His entire armor would have weighed somewhere between 150 and 200 pounds

2. Samuel gives a detailed description of Goliath's armor, why? To show how invincible everyone would have seen him as, including Goliath himself.

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."

3. 1 Samuel 17:11

When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

a) Day after day, Goliath would suit up in this armor and go and taunt the people of Israel. And for forty days, not one Israelite would come and stand against him. He was literally winning this battler because of his intimidating appearance.

b) **APPLICATION POINT:** The devil has every intention of making you "dismayed and greatly afraid" before the battle even begins. It is the fear of chaos that causes us to miss out on experiencing life in chaos. For many of us, we know what it feels like to be taunted. For days, weeks, years, the enemy stands in the valley in front of us and taunts us to the point of fear.

IV. Living for our name brings fear

When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

A. There is a lot at stake for Saul...

1. If they lose, the army of Israel, and the people of Israel will go into slavery
2. If they lose, Saul is shown as weak
3. It is the fear of the chaos that MIGHT happen if he confronts Goliath. But what happened?

B. **1 Samuel 14:52:** There was hard fighting against the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he attached him to himself.

C. **1 Samuel 16:14:** Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.

D. **1 Samuel 17:11:** Saul no longer fights with courage because the Spirit of the Lord is no longer with him due to his disobedience.

BIG IDEA: LIVING IN GOD'S SPIRIT BRINGS COURAGE TO EXALT GOD'S NAME IN THE FACE OF FEAR

- E. Its hard to tell what was really at the root of Saul's fear, maybe it was the sight of Goliath, or the fear of slavery. However, I think it was more the fear of him losing face. He couldn't go up against Goliath, because what if he loses? What if his army sees his weakness, or sees him fail? Saul may not have lacked courage to fight, he lacked courage to put his name on the line. **Because the truth is, for some of us we avoid chaos because we don't want to look weak, or risk us losing ground. Some of us would rather die than appear as weak.**
- F. **APPLICATION POINT:** When there is an opportunity for God's name to be exalted, fear of chaos is not the work of God. Fear is the result of looking at your own strength, and becoming fearful of what will happen to your name.
1. "In God's economy, God seems to reward the needy who respond to Him, and become diligent because of Him. The greatest people that God used in the Bible were all marked by their inability to accomplish anything without the Lord." – *Dr. Eric Mason*
 2. **When God sees our inability to accomplish something, he doesn't see it as weakness, He sees it as an opportunity**
- G. When we live out of God's name and He stands as our source for redemption and source of life in chaos, out of His great love and compassion he blesses us with courage. Saul, stopped living out of God's name and was trying to protect his name, and when we begin to match ourselves up against chaos we quickly realize that we are in trouble and it creates panic.

V. Living for God's name brings courage

17 And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah 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."

- A. Notice David's reason for going to the battle field, it was not to seek attention or glory, it was to serve
- B. Sometimes I am motivated to prove I am right, or prove my strength...rarely do I approach chaos because I want to serve someone

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. 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?**"

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?"

- C. David is moved, not by self-righteousness, not by pride, not by fear...he is moved because this giant is defaming the name of God. And whats worse that David calls the Israelites out on, is they are letting him. Because David understood that in chaos, we don't have an absent God. In chaos we don't stand

BIG IDEA: LIVING IN GOD'S SPIRIT BRINGS COURAGE TO EXALT GOD'S NAME IN THE FACE OF FEAR

beside a fearful and trembling God. In chaos, we don't stand beside a weak God. David recognizes, **in chaos, we stand beside the LIVING GOD. The God who brings life in chaos. The God who brings strength in chaos. The God who brings courage in chaos.**

- D. What I have realized in this passage, is that as much as I would like to be, I am not David. We are not David. The reason Samuel is describing this story in such great detail, is not to show us how much like David we are and how courageous we are. Samuel is exposing how much we are NOT like David. If I were to place a label on myself in this story, I am Saul. I avoid chaos. Sometimes because I am afraid of it, sometimes because I am afraid of how I will look. But mainly because I am not DESPERATE for God. God uses the desperate people to do great things for His name / if we don't see ourselves in that place, we will never submit to the Spirit of God...I NEED God but I am not DESPERATE for God.
- E. **APPLICATION POINT:** David was not **concerned** with the danger, he was not **enticed** by the reward, he was **convicted** by the great need to defend God's name.
- F. There is a reason we celebrate the cross of Christ. Its the cross that proves I am not David. Its the cross that proves I am a coward, because I am the one who needed a Savior. Christ didn't come so that I could be savior, Christ came so that I would be saved. Because He did, I get to live in it.
- G. Courage in the middle of chaos doesn't mean your always going to defeat the giant. Jesus had courage in the middle of chaos and died...but it does mean that life is going to come out of it for you and others
- H. Because David found life out of God's name, and stood man-to-man against Goliath, the PEOPLE of Israel (not just the army, not just Saul, the people) were saved from slavery. In the same way, because Christ stood and faced my death, my guilt, my shame. That because of Christ, I don't have to be afraid. I can body and courageously run into chaos knowing that the cross serves as a reminder that I have life in chaos. As long as you think YOU are something, you will either live in pride (Philistines) or despair (Israelites on the hill). But when we start living from the Spirit of God, we don't live to make our name great, we live to exalt God's name.