

Facing the Giants

Who Am I Series (WAI-03)

January 24, 2021

The Biblical Examples

- Numbers 13:17-33
 - Indeed, a bountiful country
 - But the people are powerful - Giants
 - Towns are large and fortified
 - Caleb says – let's go at once, we can certainly conquer it
 - The community says – if only we had died in Egypt or the wilderness
- 1 Samuel 17:32-51 - David and Goliath
 - You come to me with sword, spear and javelin
 - I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies – the God whom you have defied
 - Everyone will know that the Lord rescues his people

The reality gap – the difference between the IDEAL and the REAL and learning to DEAL

- Facing the Giant of UNREALIZED EXPECTATIONS

Elections

- The IDEAL
 - The candidate (platform) that I voted for wins
 - Legitimate elections
 - The leaders in government are there for the good of the people
 - The checks and balances of the 3 branches keeps a healthy balance
- The REAL
 - Majority rules (democracy)
 - Majority may be attained by questionable means
 - Voters may be convinced of untruths by smear campaigns or by truths being covered up
 - Voters left unconvinced of legitimate elections
- My IDEALS – a platform that aligns with God's ways
 - Sanctity of human life
 - Constitutional integrity
 - Capitalism – incentive to achieve
 - Economic strength – blessed to bless
 - Filtered borders – filters drugs, sex, and terrorists traffic
 - Pro-Israel – blessed when we bless Israel

- The REAL – the community speaks - if only we had stayed in Egypt or died in the wilderness
- God grants the community their will
 - He also granted Joshua and Caleb their will – but they had to wait for it (in the mean time they suffered with the rest)
- If truth brings freedom – John 8:32 – then lies bring bondage
 - Father of all lies – John 8:44
 - Thief comes to steal, kill, destroy John 10:10
- Between the Gap of the IDEAL and the REAL we must learn to DEAL

How to deal with the giant of unrealized expectations

- Measure the giant
 - Are your unrealized expectations unrealistic expectations
 - What do we pray before “...Thy will be done”
 - “Thy Kingdom Come...”
- Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT2) 20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.
 - We “eagerly wait” because things are not yet under his control
 - We are impatient as what we long for has not yet come
- In our impatience we go to Hagar and give birth to Ishmael
 - In our impatience we try to bring the will of God through human systems – through rule-making – (law, Government)
 - You cannot legislate morality
 - In the midst of rules, evil hearts do evil - (you hope that punishment will be a deterrent)
 - Real change comes with changed hearts
 - Salvation and sanctification
 - Jesus in control of one's life

The stone that will kill the giant

- 1 Peter 2:5 (NLT2) And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.
- Romans 12:1 (NLT2) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.
- 1 Peter 2:9 (NLT2) But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.
- Slay the giant of unrealized expectation by casting yourself as a living stone of light to penetrate the darkness of this world
 - Showing others the goodness of God
 - Living your life as a living sacrifice of praise to God
 - Showing others an uncompromised life according to the word of God – no matter the outcome
- When decrees are made contrary to the ways of God
 - Civic responsibility to vote – let your voice be heard – be influencers (but if you are out protesting, but doing nothing to make disciples – you are like David with Saul's armor)
 - David to Goliath - You come at me with sword and spear (natural weapons), I come at you in the name of the Lord – you uncircumcised Philistine (divinely powerful weapons for the pulling down of strongholds)
 - Don't bow to Nebuchadnezzar's idol (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego)
 - Don't pray to the king (Daniel)
 - No matter the outcome
 - Fiery furnace
 - Lions den
 - Death – without temporary rescue, but rather eternal rescue
- Romans 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope
- 1 Peter 2:21-23 (NLT2) 21 For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. 22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. 23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.