



# gracefellowship

Goliath *Must Fall*  
February 21, 2021  
Rejection Must Fall

Intro: We are in a special season as a church because this week we began a 40 days journey toward Easter where we are encouraging people to spend time in prayer and fasting/self-denial as a way to prepare our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with Easter quickly approaching. As you leave today there are handouts to help guide you through these 40 days and to lead you in how to pray.

We are also in a teaching series walking through some source material written by Louie Giglio in his book *Goliath Must Fall*. We are looking at the story of David and Goliath, a literal battle that took place between the warrior and champion known as Goliath who was 9'9" tall and the young shepherd boy named David. From that story we are equating issues we all face in life and we are trying to identify the giants that stand in our path who are keeping us from living in the freedom God desires for us.

Two things I want to remind us of each week as we go through this study:

1. We are not David! Jesus is David- He is the giant killer!
2. We want to see our giants fall because when we live under the strangle hold of these specific giants the glory of God in our lives is diminished. When our focus is on the giant and not on God we are not living in power of the cross. God wants our gaze to be fixed on Him no matter what is standing in front of us yelling at us.

Today we are talking about another giant that has the ability to wreak havoc in our lives: The giant of rejection.

Here's what I think is most dangerous about this giant:

**The giant of rejection attacks from multiple fronts.**

1. **Rejection can plant small seeds that don't sprout immediately, but are devastating in seasons to come.**
  - Negative words said about you occasionally that you shrug off, but which get lodged in your heart.
  - Not getting picked on the playground as a kid. You may have walked

away and said, "I didn't really want to play anyway." But a seed was planted that you weren't desired- no one wanted you for their team.

- These may be minor things, but with all due respect to Taylor Swift, you can't just shake them off! Over time these seeds of rejection build and build until you don't have any self-confidence and you feel insignificant.

## **2. The giant of rejection attacks fast and hard through major life events.**

- Your spouse drops the bomb on you that they want a divorce.
- Your boss passes over you for a promotion.
- A parent walked out on you when you were a kid.
- A trusted friend betrays you and turns their back on you.

**The most ruthless aspect of facing down this giant is that rejection typically comes from people we are in relationship with- those we love and trust most.**

David expects Goliath to mock him! Sure the giant in his path is going to reject him and say humiliating things about him. But today we are going to see David face rejection from two other people who have a larger, more important role in his life.

Look at 1 Samuel 17:25-29 with me. Goliath has been coming out to taunt the armies of Israel for 40 days and 40 nights. Everyone has been cowering in fear and no one has been willing to step up and fight him. Then David is told by his father, Jesse, to go to the battlefield and check on his brothers and take them some bread. David has been home taking care of the sheep while his older brothers are with the army. That's where we pick up the story.

**:: 1 Samuel 17:25-29**

**25 Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel."**

**26 David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**

**27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."**

**28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."**

**29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"**

The first place we see David have to confront rejection:

**David deals with rejection from his oldest brother.**

Why is Eliab so harsh toward David? I mean, David brought him bread! Did anyone give up carbs for Lent? Doesn't bread sound great right about now? I'm sorry, that was uncalled for! Eliab is harsh toward David because the giant of rejection had taken root deep in his own heart. In 1 Samuel 15 we are told that because of major disobedience, God had decided to replace Saul as King. In chapter 16 God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem and choose the new King from the family of Jesse. You might think that God would choose the oldest, tallest, strongest brother- Samuel thought that!- but that's not what God does.

**:: 1 Samuel 16:7**

**7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."**

("I have rejected him" doesn't mean that God doesn't love Eliab; it doesn't mean Eliab is going to hell when he dies. It simply means God had not chosen him for the assignment to be King.)

God did not choose Eliab to be King; instead he chose the youngest brother.  
**Eliab felt rejected and rejection breeds contempt among people.**

That contempt starts to show when David enters the scene and starts asking questions about the giant standing in the valley. Why isn't anyone fighting this guy? What will the King do for the person who will fight him? And instead of Eliab looking around at his buddies and saying, "Guys, look the future King is here! This is the guy chosen by God to lead us- let's rally around him!" Eliab insults David and starts telling him that he is conceited and his heart is wicked. Which is strange, because the whole reason God chose David as King was because he had a heart like God- one who held the worship of God as the first priority.

Here's what we learn from Eliab:

**Rejected people reject people!**

The flip side of that is that loved and accepted people will love and accept people! This is one of the blessings of our church that I take great delight in. I hear guests say all the time how our church feels warm and inviting and loving. By and large that means our people feel loved and accepted, so they are loving to guests and to one another. If you didn't feel that today, grab one of our people and say, "You were supposed to love me better today!" Then give them a hug so neither of you feels rejected!

Rejection brings with it a sense of insecurity, insignificance and abandonment. Eliab took all those things he had been feeling and that had been growing in his heart and he took it out on David.

**The second person that rejected David was King Saul.**

When David steps up and says he will fight Goliath, Saul doesn't even bother to ask for his resume. He just gives him a look and says, "You can't fight him- you're just a young man!" This is classic school playground pick up teams for kickball. Saul has an entire army of soldiers to choose from and the Door Dash guy who brought bread and cheese is volunteering!

Maybe you've experienced rejection like this before.

- You think you've got a great idea and someone immediately shoots it down.
- You bring something up that you believe could improve your marriage and your spouse isn't interested in listening
- You have a heart for ministry and serving but someone tells you there's no way God can use you like that.

Rejection can feel like someone throwing cold water on a hot fire. And maybe over time you've felt your passion for the things God has put inside your heart die down.

In his book, *Goliath Must Fall*, Louie Giglio writes this:

**"If we live for people's approval, we will die by their rejection."**

- **Louie Giglio**

How is it possible that after being rejected by his brother and by his King that David still wants to go fight the giant? David gives us the tool we need to see the giant of rejection go down in our lives:

**We learn not to live for acceptance; we live from a place of acceptance.**

The giant of rejection will tell you to be accepted you have to measure up to what other people think. You have to be pretty enough or smart enough or strong enough. David didn't care all that much about what other people thought of him because he knew what God thought of him!

David was living and acting from a place of complete acceptance in the eyes of his heavenly Father!

We need to learn that God's love and acceptance is for us. I love the story of Jesus' baptism. You can find it in Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospel accounts. When Jesus is baptized the Spirit of God descends from heaven like a dove and the voice of the Father speaks over Jesus, "This is my Son, whom I love. With Him I am well pleased." Here's what I love about that: Jesus has not preached a message, provided a miracle, done a healing, or called a single disciple- yet God

loves Him and His favor is with Jesus. Jesus lived out His entire life and ministry from a place of acceptance, not trying to earn it!

You and I should do the same thing. Live your life knowing that you are loved and accepted by the God who made you.

When you look in the mirror you may repeat some of the same things the giant of rejection says to you, but you need to learn to say the things God thinks about you. To finish up this morning let's look at Ephesians 1 together and let's change what we see in the mirror as we move from living for acceptance to living FROM acceptance.

**:: Ephesians 1:3-14**

**3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.**

**4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love**

**5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—**

**6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.**

**7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace**

**8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,**

**9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,**

**10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

**11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,**

**12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.**

**13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,**

**14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.**

Illustration: On a mirror on stage write the words

CHOSEN

ADOPTED

REDEEMED

FORGIVEN

INCLUDED

SEALED (with the Holy Spirit)

## DEPOSIT

Put a cross over the words and talk about how all of that is to the praise and glory of God. We need to see ourselves how God sees us. We live in His acceptance and we praise Him as He brings down the giant of rejection in our lives!

- Pray  
Invitation