

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 4 – Slaying the Giant 1 Samuel 16 & 17

I. DAVID BEFORE SAMUEL 1 Sam. 16:1-13

A. THE REJECTION OF JESSE’S SONS

- Seven of Jesse’s sons were passed over (v6-11). In Scripture, the number 7 represents completion or perfection. The completion or perfection of man’s best is rejected by God.

B. THE SELECTION OF JESSE’S SON

- As an indication of his appointment by God, David is anointed privately by Samuel. David will be anointed two more times:
Once publicly by the men of Judah. cf. 2 Sam. 2:4
Once publicly by all of Israel. cf. 2 Sam. 5:3
- David, the eighth son, is chosen by God and inaugurates a day of new beginnings in the kingdom of God. cf. 2 Pet. 2:5

II. DAVID BEFORE SAUL 1 Sam. 16:14-23

A. DEVOTED TO JESSE’S HOUSE

- Even after having been anointed, David returned to the fields and faithfully fulfilled his lowly obligations. cf. 17:12-20

B. PROMOTED TO SAUL’S HOUSE

- David’s ministry as a psalmist and musician was honed in isolation and obscurity. cf. Ps. 78:70; Ex. 3:1; Gal. 1:17,18

III. DAVID BEFORE GOLIATH 1 Sam. 17

A. A PORTRAIT OF OUR ADVERSARY

- The Philistines and Israel gather for war in the Valley of Elah, with a warrior to be selected to represent each side.
- Goliath (*splendor, soothsayer*) was undoubtedly in touch with the world of evil and is a type or figure of Satan. Rom. 14:4
- “*your adversary the devil walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour!*” 1 Pet. 5:8; cf. Rev. 12:9,10
- cf. Jn. 10:10; Acts 10:38; 1 Thess. 2:18; 2 Tim. 2:26

1. His Intimidating Size

- Goliath was a giant from Gath, an ancestor of the giants, (sons of Anak), who terrified the spies sent by Moses.
- cf. Num. 13:28, 33; Deut. 2:10,11; Josh. 11:22

2. His Emasculating Speech

- Goliath defied (*dared, challenged, withstood, resisted*) the army of Israel from taking that which was given them by God (v10, 25,26, 36); thus he defied God Himself (v45).

Note: Satan attempts to use similar tactics of intimidation (v11) and he too must be faced head-on! cf. Heb. 2:14,15

B. A PATTERN FOR OUR ADVERSITIES

1. Rest Confidently in the Anointing of God

- As David steps into battle, he does so with the assurance that he has been anointed by God. 1 Sam. 16:11-13
 - Saul was anointed from a bottle (10:1), but David was anointed from a horn (16:13).
- The emphasis is not so much on the oil, as it is upon the unction! cf. 1 Sam. 16:13; 1 Jn. 2:20; 4:4; 2 Cor. 1:21

2. Serve Faithfully in the Call of God

- Faithfulness in the private place prepares you for victory in the public place. cf. Luke 16:10-12
- Before you take on the giant, be sure you can handle the lion and the bear! v34-37

3. Walk Reverently in the Company of God

- The frontlines of battle can be a lonely place and you must be willing to fight alone! cf. Mk. 14:15; 2 Tim. 4:16-17 cf. Ps. 22:11; 34:18; 69:18; 91:1-2; 145:18; Heb. 13:5
- David had to work through the accusations of his brother (v28), and the criticisms of his king (v33).

4. Fight Aggressively in the Armor of God

- Many profess faith in God, but then place their trust upon the flesh. Notice Saul's inconsistency in v37-38.
- David rejected the armor of the flesh (v39), and ran into battle with a spiritual armor he had already proven (v48).
 - Ps. 3:3; 5:12; 28:7; Eph 6:10-18; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Zech 4:6

5. Stand Victoriously in the Name of God

- David came against Goliath "*in the Name of the God of the Battle-ranks!*" v45; cf. Josh 5:14; Ps. 24:10; Isa. = 54x's
- The "name" represents "all that God is in character and attribute!" cf. Ex. 34:5-7; Mk. 16:17; Act 3:6; Jam. 5:14

C. A PICTURE OF OUR ADVOCATE

- As an "*uncircumcised Philistine,*" (v26, 36), Goliath was "a man without a covenant!" cf. Gen. 17:10,11; Rom 4:11
- As a covenant people, we have "chosen a man" (v8) to fight on our behalf (1 Jn. 2:1). Jesus defeated the enemy by the wounds of Golgotha's cross. cf. Col. 2:14,15; 1 Jn. 3:18