

1 Samuel 18:17-30

9-12-10

“Sometimes the Giant Wins!”

I. INTRO:

- A. **Martin Luther:** I have held many things *in my hands* and I have lost them all; **But** whatever I have placed *in God’s hands*, that I still possess.
- B. Last week we talked about “*Flying Spears!*” And how David was enrolled, **not** into *the lineage of royalty* yet, **but** 1st into *the school of brokenness!*
 1. David, 1st having to serve the Lord as *a broken vessel*.
 2. **i.e.** Learning *the way of the cross before* the weight of the crown!
- C. **Outline:** The Injustice of Broken Promises; Fighting for a Princess; The Lord was with David

II. SOMETIMES THE GIANT WINS!

- A. **THE INJUSTICE OF BROKEN PROMISES!** (17-19)
- B. We live in an era of *unkept promises*. Nations sign important **treaties** and then break them at will. **And**, many couples show little regard for their **wedding vows**.
 1. Has someone broken their promise to you this last week/month?
- C. (17) Saul had already promised whoever killed Goliath would be given his daughter(17:25)
 1. He never made good on that. **Such a cold calculated insult!**
 2. Saul’s actions had **humiliated** David before all who knew of the king’s offer.
 - a) **If he gave way to anger** & led his 1000 men against the king, he would be guilty of *treason!*
 - b) **If he repressed his anger & turned it inward** he might act with *reckless disregard* for his own welfare in fighting the Philistines.
 - c) **But his inner trust in God kept him from falling into Saul’s trap. Maybe this is when he penned...**
 - (1) **Ps.16:8 I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**
 - (a) To **set God before us** is nothing less than to keep all our senses bound & captive, **that** they may not run out & go astray after any other object.
 - (b) **If you’ve made a habit of communing with God when the sun is shining, you’ll find it much easier to sing in the rain.**

- (2) Ps.7:1,2 O Lord my God, I take refuge in **you**; save and deliver me from all who pursue me, or they will tear me like a lion and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me.

- D. (18) **Who am I, & what is my life?** - such beautiful humiliation.
1. Had he been motivated by *fleshly concerns*, the story might have had a very different ending.
 2. **Humility** - Dr. Harry Ironside was once convicted about his *lack of humility*. A friend recommended as a remedy, that he march through the streets of Chicago wearing a sandwich board, shouting the scripture verses on the board for all to hear. Dr. Ironside agreed to this venture and when he returned to his study and removed the board, he said "*I'll bet there's not another man in town who would do that!*"
- E. (19) We preachers love to preach about **David and Goliath**. It's always a strong message about *trusting God* and *overcoming the giants* before you...**We like to win!**
1. But, what happens when your life **isn't** like that?
 2. What happens when you go out to the battlefield and instead of winning...you **lose**? And, you lose **big**?
 3. What happens when, even as you're trusting the Lord, you lose a job, a dream, a friend, a loved one, your marriage, or lose some struggle?
 - a) The dirty little secret that most preachers don't like to talk about is that...
Sometimes The Giant Wins!
 - b) Sometimes, even when you've done all you can: *you've prayed, you've committed it to the Lord, you're staring down your challenge eyeball-to-eyeball, you're trusting God's grace to get you through...*and you **lose!**
 - c) *What you were afraid might happen, happens...and maybe even worse.*
 - d) Or...maybe you're living your life, doing what you believe God has called you to do. Loving people, serving the Lord, walking with God...and then some terrible thing just drops on you & lays you flat. ***Sometimes The Giant Wins.***
- F. We've all experienced times like that, haven't we?
1. Not only do we need to learn lesson of **challenges**, **but** also lesson of **loss**.
 2. The lesson of **loss** is the last thing we would expect after the Giant-killing.
 - a) David is on top of world. He slayed the Giant. He's recognized by the King. He is made a commander of 1000. He has his own theme music (*Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands*). He's a successful military commander. He's gained great fame w/the people. He's about to marry a princess. David is on top of world...then came a couple spears. And now *the spear of humiliation!*

- (1) As is true about the geography of the **physical world** so is true about the terrain of the **spiritual life**...**Mountain tops have valleys in-between!**
- (2) In the coming chapters, David is going to experience a series of **losses** that will leave him **afraid, alone** and **running for his life** in the wilderness of Judea.

G. I have held many things **in my hands** and I have lost them all; **But** whatever I have placed **in God's hands**, that I still possess.

H. **FIGHTING FOR A PRINCESS!** (20-27)

- I. Wow, **how many stories** have been written about a man winning a princess?
 1. Romeo has his Juliet, King Arthur fights for Guinevere, Robin rescues Maid Marian. As John Eldridge called it, every man needs a beauty to rescue!
 - a) *Indiana Jones, James Bond, Titanic*, so many films with the same story at its core!
 - b) Adventure is written into the heart of a man, & it's not just about having "fun." Adventure requires something of us, puts us to the test.
 - c) The beauty will make you want to *charge the castle, slay the giant, leap across the parapets*, or in this case *chop off a few hundred foreskins*.

J. (27) **In full count!** - 1, 2, 3...

- K. 200, double the dowry - "**Let us fight** as if all depends on **us**, **but let us look up** & know that all depends on **Him!**" [David shows his loyalty to the crown delivery **twice** the requested quota!]
1. "A ship in harbor is **safe**, but that is **not** what ships are built for." John Shedd
 2. Onward! "For the battle is not yours but God's!"
 3. **Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.** Eph.3:20

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M. **THE LORD WAS WITH DAVID!** (28-30)

N. (29) **Saul was still more afraid of David** - we've seen this before(12,15), but now Saul's twisted emotions so controlled him that he was obsessed with the desire to kill his son-in-law

O. **Saul became David's enemy continually/all the days** -

1. David probably hoped his marriage to Michal would heal the breach, **but** instead Saul became **David's enemy continually**.

P. (30) Rom.8:31 "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

- Q. Through all of the difficulties David faced after killing Goliath, *he conducted himself wisely*. **Although** he was the object of the king's *unmerited hatred*, the victim of his *unbridled fears & ungoverned fury*, David continued to remain **steadfast** in his allegiance to the crown.¹
- R. **Some years ago** - A group of scientists & botanists were exploring remote regions of the Alps in search of new species of flowers. One day they noticed through binoculars a flower of such rarity and beauty that its value to science was incalculable. But it lay deep in a ravine with cliffs on both sides. To get the flower someone had to be lowered over the cliff on a rope. A curious young boy was watching nearby, and the scientists told him they would pay him well if he would agree to be lowered over the cliff to retrieve the flower below. The boy took one long look down the steep, dizzy depths and said, "I'll be back in a minute." A short time later he returned, followed by a gray-haired man. Approaching the botanist, the boy said, "I'll go over that cliff and get that flower for you if this man holds the rope. He's my **dad**."
1. Do you trust your **heavenly Dad** to hold your rope?
 2. Do you trust your **heavenly Dad**?
 3. Do you trust?
- S. I have held many things *in my hands* and I have lost them all; **But** whatever I have placed *in God's hands*, that I still possess.

¹ Cyril Barber: The Books of Samuel; pg.222