

THE LIFE OF DAVID

SHEPHERD. WARRIOR. POET. KING.

WEEK 2: GOD & GOLIATH

Today's Text: 1 Samuel 17

When looking at this passage it is important to have two horizons of meaning in mind. The first horizon roots David in his context and looks at his example of faith. The second horizon looks at David as a foreshadow of Christ and lifts our heads to thank God for Jesus.

PART 1: DAVID HAS EXEMPLARY FAITH

1. FAITH IN GOD'S GLORY AND PROMISE

David was confident in what God had promised, not only to him as the future king, but also to the nation of Israel. His confidence did not lie in himself or in the natural ability of the Israelite army, but in the power of God to fulfil His promises.

- ❖ Q: What promises from God was David holding onto, when he decided to take on the Philistine giant?
- ❖ Q: What is the difference between relying on God's promises, and relying on our own hopes and dreams to be fulfilled, and why is this so important to differentiate?

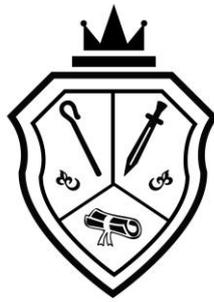
2. FAITH TO REMEMBER GOD'S GOODNESS

David was confident in God's goodness, and was quick to remember the things that God had done in his life already. It is important for us to draw on past experiences from God to remind us of God's goodness and faithfulness to us. Looking back is hugely faith-building.

- ❖ Q: Why is looking back at God's goodness and faithfulness in our lives such an important exercise?
- ❖ Q: Why does relying on past faithfulness, in some ways, perhaps show more faith, than waiting for God to do something new to prove his goodness?

3. FAITH TO STAND ALONE

In this particular scenario, David had no support from anyone, because what he was doing was a risk to his life. Most of the time, God does use our church community to come alongside us, and help us wisely process decisions, but there are times when God will expect us to act alone.



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For most of us, the times that we will have to stand alone in our faith, will be in small and mundane steps of obedience, which look foolish or conservative to those looking in, and we will need the same bold faith to proceed alone.

- ❖ Q: Why is it important for us to see our small steps of faith, that are costly to our lives, as meaningful steps?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think we all tend to be willing to do great and crazy things for God, and yet slack off on those small steps of obedience, that feel costly to our day-to-day?
- ❖ Q: Give some examples of small steps of obedience that come at a cost to you, and perhaps look foolish to others. (e.g. paying 10% or more tithe every month - before dealing with your own expenses, sticking to the one-drink limit while driving, being generous at the cost to your own comfort, keeping the speed limit when there are no cameras, not gossiping with your friends, not engaging with crude jokes/course language at work etc.)

4. FAITH TO WORK WITH VERY LITTLE

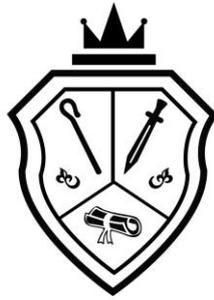
Saul wanted David to be as protected as possible, and yet it was totally impractical for David. Without protective armour, David faced Goliath confidently with what he had with him. Many of us want to be obedient, but we do not have the confidence in God to obey him with the little we have.

5. FAITH TO LOOK BEYOND WHAT CAN BE SEEN

Read Hebrews 11:1 & 11:39-40

David was sure of God's victory over Goliath because his faith was in what God has already promised. The Bible says that there were those who also believed in promises from God, without ever seeing his promises fulfilled within their lifetime. This was real faith. We too are called to have trust in the promises of God, regardless of whether or not we see them materialise while we are here on earth. Faith in God's promises is never a faith misplaced. Had David been killed by Goliath, his faith was still in the God who saves.

- ❖ Q: Why is it important to believe in God's promises, regardless of what we see in front of us?



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PART 2: JESUS IS THE BETTER DAVID

In the second horizon, the life of David foreshadows, or points to, the life of Christ.

Like David, Jesus was:

1. Sent by his father and rejected by his brothers – not only did Jesus lay down his majesty in order to be sent to earth by the Father, his own brothers did not accept or embrace him.
2. Tormented for 40 days – Goliath taunted the Israelites for 40 days, and yet David managed to secure the victory for the Israelites. Jesus was taunted by Satan in the wilderness after fasting for 40 days, and yet he still managed to secure victory over Satan, on our behalf.
3. Our representative in a great battle – As David represented Israel when he took on Goliath, so Jesus represented humanity when he took on the battle against sin and death (See Romans 5:18-19).
4. Jesus won and the enemy is fleeing – On the cross, as Jesus died, it appeared as though he had lost the battle. But it was there that the battle was won. And though the enemy continues to wage war against us, he has limited power and will not win the war (Colossians 2:13-15).

- ❖ Q: What do we mean when we say that David foreshadows, or points to, Christ?
- ❖ Q: Why is Jesus a better David?