

“DAVID’S GIANT ADVANTAGE”

1 Samuel 17:45-51

INTRO: Turn your Bibles, or turn them on to 1 Samuel chapter 17. Today, I would like to revisit something I touched on last week in my sermon. Last Sunday I referenced, as an illustration, the story of David and Goliath, and specifically, the conversation David had with King Saul just before he went to kill the giant. Today, I want to look at that victory. Last week David said to Saul, THE SAME GOD who delivered me from the claws of the lion, and the paw of the bear, WILL deliver me from this uncircumcised Philistine. It's safe to say that, David had a lot of confidence in God. And this confidence, this FAITH, gave David a GIANT advantage over his adversary. And that's what I want to preach on for the next few minutes, DAVID'S GIANT ADVANTAGE.

For those of you who may not know, let me give you a short backstory to what's going on in the passage we're about to read. At this time, a man named Saul is King of Israel. King Saul has been a failure. In his arrogance, he has been disobedient to God. And God has cut him off. By that I mean, that God has made the decision to give Saul's throne to someone else. That someone else, is a young shepherd boy, by the name of David.

When we get to chapter 17 of 1 Samuel, the Israelites are at war with the Philistines. As a matter of fact, they are about to go out to battle against their enemy when something strange happens. A rather large soldier in the Philistine army steps out into the open and dares to make a deal. He calls out to the Israelites and says, Instead of all of us fighting, and possibly many dying out here today, let's do this, you send out your best man. He and I will fight it out to the death. And if your man wins, then we will become your slaves, but if I win, then you will become our slaves. The problem was, this man was a giant! A real giant. His name was Goliath and scripture tells us that he was a champion of the Philistines, and that he was about 9 feet 9 inches tall. When the Israelites heard his challenge, the Bible says that Saul and all the Israelites were greatly afraid. Goliath presented his challenge to the Israelites every morning and every evening for 40 days. And no one would dare fight against him. That is, until little David heard his challenge...

Now David isn't old enough to fight. He's not a soldier. He's a shepherd. He keeps his father's sheep. He has 3 older brothers that are soldiers, however. And one day Jesse, their father, sends little David with some food, to check on things and see how the boys are doing. That's when David hears something that makes his blood boil. A Philistine soldier standing and defying the God of Israel and cursing the Jewish army. And little David said, let me at him! Read with me starting in v 32 of 1 Samuel 17...

1 Samuel 17: 32-37 *“And David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail on account of this Philistine. Your servant will go and fight him!” 33 But Saul replied, “You cannot go out against this Philistine to fight him. You are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” 34 David replied, “Your servant has been tending his father’s sheep, and whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it down, and delivered the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it. 36 Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 David added, “The LORD, who delivered me from the claws of the lion and the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” “Go,” said Saul, “and may the LORD be with you.””*

Before we read the rest of the story, let me stop and say here, that sometimes bad things happen, LIFE HAPPENS. Sometimes, Life comes at us like a BIG BULLY, and hurts us.

LISTEN, no matter how much you love Jesus, you're still going to have problems with the **BIG BULLY** of life. Don't be surprised! David wasn't surprised at what he found when he got to the battlefield. Do you know what he found? A Battle, an enemy, a big mouth soldier that smelled as if he lived in a tent with no running water and no bathroom. A big guy carrying a sword and a spear that wanted to kill him and everyone he loved. **THAT'S WHAT YOU FIND ON A BATTLEFIELD!** David wasn't surprised by that. And you shouldn't be either. **WE LIVE LIFE ON A BATTLEFIELD, NOT ON A PLAYGROUND.**

Listen to me, **IF YOU'RE NOT ARMED FOR THE BATTLE, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE SURPRISED BY THE ENEMY WHEN HE COMES AGAINST YOU!** That's the reason we read in **Ephesians 6:11**, "*Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the strategies of the devil.*"

ILLUS: Let's talk to one another here. If you go to the grocery store, what do you expect to find? If you go to a shoe store, what do you expect to find? If you go to a car lot, what do you expect to find? If you come to my house for dinner, what do you expect? (Brussel Sprouts) **AND** if you go to war, what do you expect to find? **LET ME HELP YOU WITH THIS ONE.** Deplorable conditions, heartache, pain, wounds, tears, bloodshed, and an enemy who wants to kill you.

BUT LET ME GIVE YOU SOME GOOD NEWS! I don't know what you're currently dealing with, what's coming against you in this season of your life. But whatever it is, you need to know, as a child of God, **YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE!** Say that out loud with me, "I have the advantage" That's true of every believer in Christ, but very few know it. Now, look at what the Bible says...

vv 40-44 "*And David took his staff in his hand, selected five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag. And with his sling in hand, he approached the Philistine. 41 Now the Philistine came closer and closer to David, with his shield-bearer before him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him because he was just a boy, ruddy and handsome. 43 "Am I a dog," he said to David, "that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he called to David, "and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"*

WOW, it's about to get serious! In these next few verses we are going to witness and incredible thing. Little David is going to defeat Giant Goliath. It seemed impossible, but, as you will see, David had a **GIANT ADVANTAGE.** Notice...

I) He had an AWARENESS of his ADVANTAGE: **v 45** "*But David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied"*

THAT'S A GIANT ADVANTAGE! David didn't have a greater advantage than all the other Israelites, but he did have a greater awareness of his advantage. You don't need, and you can't have, any greater advantage over the issues you're facing, than what God has already given you. You just need a greater awareness of what God has made available to you.

Do you know anyone who makes the Christian life look easy? You think, "I wish my life was as easy as theirs". You think that they somehow have an unfair advantage, but they don't. They have exactly what God has given all the rest of His children. They're reading the same field manual that you have. You have the same Spirit living in you that they have. They just have a better awareness than you. **Romans 8:11** "*And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you.*"

I) He had an AWARENESS of his ADVANTAGE: v 45 CONTINUED

Sometimes you need to remind yourself, remind the enemy, remind the old devil that you have the advantage, Why? Because you have connections! Not because you're so good, but because you know someone who is great! You have the advantage!

Country Preacher: "Most looked at Goliath and said, he's too big to kill. David looked at Goliath and said, he's too big to miss"

All the other Israelites saw in Goliath an IMPOSSIBLE OBSTACLE, but David SAW an INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! How will the world know that you have a Heavenly advantage given to you by your Heavenly Father if you never face anything? Sure, life can be hard. It's hard for everyone. But overcomers see things differently. HOW CAN YOU OVERCOME, IF NOTHING EVER COMES FOR YOU TO OVER? Think about that for a while :) Notice secondly...

II) He ACTED AS IF he had an ADVANTAGE: vv 46-47

"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand. This day I will strike you down, cut off your head, and give the carcasses of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the creatures of the earth. Then the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 And all those assembled here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give all of you into our hands."

Sometimes our faith is weak and we get scared with how life is treating us, and it would be easy to cowl down somewhere and hide. But when that happens to you ACT AS IF you have the advantage.

Listen, I've read the Psalms of David, I know that sometimes he struggled to believe God was with him, so I believe, I really believe, that when he made his little speech about Goliath, I believe he was nervous. I believe his hands were shaking, and that his palms were sweating. He was talking tough, but I have to think that deep down inside, he was, on some level, just a scared little boy. Goliath was a big dude with 126lbs of armor. David probably didn't even weigh 126lbs. But he ACTED AS IF he had the advantage.

Listen, if you can learn to load your sling, even when your hands are shaking, and your palms are sweating, if you'll just ACT AS IF you have the advantage, you'll soon discover what David found to be true, that God is bigger than any giant facing you! If you'll ACT AS IF you have the advantage, eventually you'll become AWARE of the advantage you've had all along. And that's the key...It's called walking by faith.

III) He ANSWERED AMEN to his ADVANTAGE: vv 48-51

"As the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Then David reached into his bag, took out a stone, and slung it, striking the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. 51 David ran and stood over him. He grabbed the Philistine's sword and pulled it from its sheath and killed him; and he cut off his head with the sword..." WOW! WAIT WHAT? Yeah! We don't usually read v 51. Our children's stories stop at v 50. Let me read some more vv 54, 57 *"David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put Goliath's weapons in his own tent... 57 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, still holding his head in his hand, Abner took him and brought him before Saul."*

He carried his head to Jerusalem? WHAT? LOL, he didn't even have a Yeti cooler, he's just carrying his head around by the hair!

I) He had an AWARENESS of his ADVANTAGE: v 45

II) He ACTED AS IF he had an ADVANTAGE: vv 46-47

III) He ANSWERED AMEN to his ADVANTAGE: vv 48-51 CONTINUED

Do you know what AMEN means? NO, it's not the opposite of AWOMEN. Amen is a declaration of affirmation. It literally means, "it is so; so be it" And that's how sure our advantage is!

Some of you need to finish off, once and for all, those things you're having trouble overcoming. Oh you knock them out from time to time, but you've never finished them off. Why don't you cut their head off today? Get the victory God has given you once and for all!

CONCLUSION: How long will you wrestle with life as if you have no advantage?