

“Re-Claiming the MAN-CARD ~ Dwarfing Giants” 6.17.10

Happy Father’s Day!

Today we are going to open up the O.T. story of David & Goliath. John 3:16 is to the N.T., the epic battle between David & the giant is to the O.T.

For the last several days, I’ve been reminded of the GIANTS all us face at some point in our lives. So what GIANT are you face today?

- Maybe it’s a PROBLEM:
  - Unresolved ANGER; maybe it’s a Chemical ADDICTION; or a nagging illness or a pending operation?
  - Maybe its the GIANT of DEPRESSION that looms over you like a giant gorilla that you need to face in the ‘...name of the Lord’
- Maybe it’s a PERSON:
  - Your MARRIAGE is no longer satisfying; maybe you’ve had to face off with the GIANT of DEATH & lost a loved one?
  - Just maybe your particular GIANT is FEAR due to loss of income, because of unstable economy, that you need to face in the ‘...name of the Lord.’

Perhaps it’s some fear that is lurking around the corner, DRAINING your energy & DEPLETING what remains of your faith.

There are countless GIANTS that attack us each day that we need to face ‘...in the name of the Lord.’

God knew that we would face intimidating GIANTS so He included David’s story, as he faced off with his 9’9 giant = Goliath: This O.T. story IS NOT JUST for children. Pay attention to David as he prepared to face off with his giant Goliath.

I. David’s epic battle

A. I Samuel 17: 2 – 3 or p. 223 in pew Bible

1. The valley of Elah was not a narrow ravine but is more like a vast canyon.
2. The ancient site was probably about a mile wide in the center of the canyon.

Israeli forces positioned on (1) side facing there perennial enemy the Philistines.

B. I Samuel 17: 4

1. Goliath was a big boy ☺
2. Conservative scholars believe he was at least 9 foot 9 inches:  
ADD his wingspan = length of his arms; must have been a sight to behold.
3. There really are NO GOOD COMPARISONS in our world to this GIANT:  
So, allow me to make a slight comparison: In the early 80s, brother was part of the University of Kentucky’s football program.
  - a. Days of ‘Twin Towers’ = Sam Bowie & Melvin Turpin
  - b. Sam Bowie was 7’1 + Mel Turpin was only 6’11
  - c. Sam Bowie was injury prone & Scott met him in the training facility one day while he was on crutches ☺
4. 9’9 = Goliath was ALMOST eye level with the rim of the basketball goal ☺

C. (R) I Samuel 17: 5 – 7

It just wasn’t Goliath’s size that was INTIMIDATING:

1. Goliath's Armor (shoulder to knee) weighed between 175 – 200 pounds
2. His iron spear head weighed between 20 – 25 pounds
  - a. Tie a 25 dumb bell to the end of a broom stick (small idea)
  - b. In addition, he had an armor bearer who walked before him carrying a shield; as double protection.

No doubt that this GIANT was an imposing force to be reckoned with:  
No wonder the Israeli's were paralyzed with fear.

Human perspective ~ Goliath would not have been an easy GIANT to avoid:  
But we are not here to talk about human perspectives!

D. (R) I Samuel 17: 8 – 11 = Goliath well-armed & arrogantly defiant:

E. (R) I Samuel 17: 16

For (40) days Goliath issued his challenge:  
Relentlessly ~ the GIANT Goliath came back breathing his murderous threats.

Isn't that how the GIANTS we face operate? GIANTS of fear & worry = they never just come once; they come everyday!

RELENTLESSLY trying to INTIMIDATE. These fears & worries come & attack our hearts every morning & every night; reminding us how pathetically incompetent we are:

SO WHO was the most likely candidate to fight Goliath?

F. I Samuel 9: 2 gives us the answer:

"Kish's son Saul was the most handsome man in Israel-head & shoulders taller than anyone else in the land."  
No idea how tall King Saul actually was = conservatives estimate 7'0 feet v. 11 records, "...Saul & the Israelites were terrified & deeply shaken."

My early days I thought Saul was nothing but a coward; my sentiments have changed thru the years. It's easy to be big & bold 4000 years later, "I'd have protected God's good name."

G. When facing GIANTS it's easy to be intimidated, but hold to the scriptures:

1. I John 4: 4, "...you have already won a victory over those people because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world."
2. Phil 4:13, "For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength."
3. I John 5: 4, "For every child of God defeats this evil world, & we achieve this victory through our faith."

H. VERSES 12 – 19 tell the story of...

A teenager named David that was keeping his father's sheep ~ youngest of (8) sons David's (3) of his older brothers were fighting in the Israeli army & his father Jesse sent him to the battlefield w/supplies to check on them.

If you have ever sent off a loved one to war, your one single focus is for their safety!

Vietnam War ~ late 60s my mom + brother + grandparents sat around the old black & white TV ~ Walter Cronkite; hoping to catch a glimpse of my dad. We wore POW bracelets of captured U.S. soldiers and prayed for safe return

- I. (R) I Samuel 17: 20b – 24 = NOW the action begins to pick up!
1. Notice what happened when Goliath stepped forth & shouted his murderous threats = the entire Israeli army ran for cover ~ EXCEPT DAVID!
  2. David was feisty even as a teenager ~ never backed down from a good fight ☺
  3. It reminds me of a story told of General George Patton that was told soon after his death in a hunting accident. His niece commented that Uncle George is better off now that the war is over, she remarked, "...he didn't enjoy life as much without a good fight."
  4. DAVID'S willingness to fight & not back down had its (+) 's & (-)'s
    - a. (+) 's his courage gained the respect & admiration of his peers
    - b. (-) 's later in life David wanted to build God's temple in Jerusalem, but God refused his request b-c David had been a man of bloodshed.

- J. (R) I Samuel 17: 28 – 29 pain-filled lesson

Eliab was still bitter over watching his little brother being anointed as Israel's future king.

Sometimes when you face a Spiritual GIANT; something you have never accomplished, your own family will be the most discouraging.

INSERT my story - - Three people in my family were pleased with my decision to go in ministry: Two were my grand-parents + Brother Scott.

My dad hated the idea ~ low opinion of preachers in those days; Today ~ God has changed dad's opinion.

- K. (R) I Samuel 17: 31 – 37

You have to enjoy David's sale's pitch to King Saul ☺

What GIANT ~ the only GIANT in my life is God. Goliath is nothing in comparison w/my God!

David was quick to list God's victories in his life: I've killed lions & bears w/my club; this pagan Philistine doesn't have a chance ☺ We are quick to sound off about our failures in life; hard pressed to name the remarkable victories God has done in past times in our life!

INSERT Go home today & list out God's victories in your life to date:

It's time to watch David prepare for battle!

- L. (R) I Samuel 17: 38 – 39

1. INSERT Large jacket

2. Battle Lesson = When you are fighting your GIANT = you can't fight the GIANT in someone else's armor. David symbolically refuses to play Saul

M. (R) I Samuel 17: 40

1. Growing up we had a sling shot ~ a 'Y' shaped instrument with a large rubber band w/a pouch to put our ammo. This IS NOT David's weapon.
2. The sling was a weapon for hurling stones w/power & accuracy.
  - a. The sling was made of (2) long straps of leather attached to a flat pad. The slinger held the end of the (2) straps in one hand & placed a stone loosely in the pad.
  - b. He then swung the stone around to build momentum. RELEASING one of the straps, he allowed the stone to fly free toward its target.
  - c. Someone w/skill could hurl them @ close to 100 mph.
3. Round stones found @ biblical sites & i.d. as sling stones are two to three inches in diameter (BASEBALL)
4. No small stone would have tumbled this GIANT, it would be like bear hunting w/a .22 caliber rifle, only going to irritate the bear.

Judges 20:16, "Among Benjamin's elite troops, 700 were left-handed & each of them could sling a rock& hit a target within a hairsbreadth w/out missing."

N. (R) I Samuel 17: 41 – 44

There always comes a day when you finally have to face off with your GIANT;  
No matter how frightening-intimidating the GIANT might be.

O. (R) I Samuel 17: 45 – 51

GIANTS don't look too big in a prone position!

II. The secret of David's life = "This is the Lord's battle."

- A. Are you trying to fight your own battle ~ battle your GIANT alone?
- B. You CAN'T but GOD CAN!

MAYBE you are not facing a GIANT at this moment, but you will someday. There is a day in the future when you will have to face the biggest GIANT of all & go in the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

Make sure you've made peace with God; starts w/a simple confession that Jesus is Lord!

The battle for your soul has already been won @ Calvary!