



Looking Past the Giant

July 18, 2010

1 Samuel 17:1-11

¹Now the gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. ²And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. ³And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Discussion Questions

Have you ever had to face a bully?
Did you stand up to him/her?
Was it difficult? Why?

What made the soldiers of Israel so afraid?
What effect did their fear have?

Have you ever had to face a struggle in your life that seemed like a Goliath?
What effect did that Goliath have on your life?
On your faith?

The soldiers needed to look past Goliath and look to God. That's easy to say.
How do you think they could have done that?
How are we able to do that?

Are there still giants in our path in life?
Are there still battles?
How can we face them without being overwhelmed by them?