



Triumphing in Trust

August 1, 2010

1 Samuel 17:38-54

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. “I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off.

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”

⁴⁵ 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 Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷ All those gathered 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.”

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. ⁵⁰ So David triumphed 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 took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. ⁵² Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

⁵³ When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp. ⁵⁴ David took the Philistine’s head and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put the Philistine’s weapons in his own tent.

Discussion Questions

Have you ever failed to act on an idea or opportunity, only to see someone else come along and make it work?

What kept you from trying it?

How did you feel when you saw it work?

Why did David only take a staff and five stones into the fight?

Remembering the picture of nine foot Goliath towering over the teenage shepherd, what do you make of David’s speech?

Why is David going out to battle Goliath?

How much do we concern ourselves with the glory of God?

How much do we concern ourselves with the reputation of God?

How did David win?

What did his victory mean?

How can we serve God in similar ways?

at do you think of David's question, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
Would this have been your first reaction?
Why or why not?

What was different about how David view the situation compared with that of the army and of Saul?
Why do you think it was so different?

Why do you think David's thoughts turn toward encouraging the army in verse 32?
What is David willing to do to demonstrate trust in God to the army?
Where does David find this trust for himself?

Can we be like David, encouraging others not to lose heart in the face of difficulties?
...in encouraging others to attempt the impossible in the name of God?