

The Name of the Lord of Hosts

1 Samuel 17:41-49

Life Group Discussion – June 24th, 2018

This passage is one that many of us are very familiar with.

It is the famous story of David versus Goliath.

David's words are powerful, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

The reason why David was able to stand in front of Goliath without any fear or trepidation is because he knew the power of the name of the Lord of Hosts.

This is the same today. The people of this world may have more money or better abilities, but what they do not have is the name of the Lord of Hosts.

This name is only called upon those who believe in Jesus Christ and it is this name that allows us to be brave and overcome any obstacle.

To be honest, the fight against the Israelites and the Philistines was not even something to be compared. The Philistines were sophisticated and advanced in battle and weaponry whereas the Israelites barely had anything to fight. And on top of that, they had a one-in-a-million type of warrior in Goliath.

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He 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. And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The 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. (1 Samuel 17:4-7)

Goliath was almost 7 feet tall and, at that time, would have truly towered over everyone else. It would have looked like a man standing before children. This is why there were no willing fighters for the Israelites. Once they looked at Goliath, they were too scared to move.

Then David appears.

He had come to feed his brothers and the army, but after seeing Goliath decided to go out and fight and win.

We can look at the fight against David and Goliath as one not against flesh but against the spirit.

If we try to fight against the world with our physical bodies, we will never win. The temptations and sins are

too strong for us. But when we look at this world spiritually, we can overcome because we can rely on the Lord instead of ourselves.

When David came, everyone doubted. In fact, his own brothers doubted his motives and told him to go back.

Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." (1 Samuel 17:28)

King Saul was also very worried about David. He believed it was impossible to win against Goliath.

However, David was able to persuade King Saul.

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." (1 Samuel 17:34-36)

Even though David had never fought in a war before, he had killed lions and bears while defending his flock. Even though he never received the recognition of his brothers, God was preparing him to fight against one of the fiercest warriors by simply tending his flock.

And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. (1 Samuel 17:43)

The Philistines were so surprised at David's appearance that they compared their own selves to dogs.

What was David's response?

Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied...and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give you into our hand.” (1 Samuel 17:45,47)

Even though Goliath came with a sword and a spear, David came in the name of the Lord of Hosts. It is with confidence that we can go into any battle because we know that God has everything in His hands.

This fight was not man against man, but man’s strength against the might of the Lord of the Heavens.

What happened after this declaration from David?

And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. (1 Samuel 17:49)

The Israelites did not believe they could ever have beaten the Philistines. And yet, with God’s power, they were able to overcome even the fiercest enemy.

There are many times when we believe we cannot accomplish something on our ability. That is correct. But when we put our hope and faith on God, He can accomplish anything.

There are 2 things we can learn from this.

1. Even though David’s abilities were not enough, when God plans to accomplish something, it can and will happen, even if the person He does it through is weak.
2. When difficulties happen, complaining or being negative will never help.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. (Proverbs 18:21)

The words you say have the power of life and death.

Just as David called upon the name of the Lord to overcome His enemy, let us say positive words and words that we truly believe to help us.

There will be difficulties in our world that seem like Goliath. And many of these problems will be impossible to overcome on our own strength.

However, let us be like David and trust in the Lord. Call upon the Lord of Hosts and see what happens in your life.

I believe you will succeed when you believe and call upon His name.

SHARING-----

1. Has there been a time when there was a problem or sin that you could not overcome? Please share it to the group and what you did or what you will do to overcome it.
2. David’s proclamation is something many of us love. Please read 1 Samuel 17:45,47 (underlined above) all together out loud and talk about what it means to you.