

David & Goliath

ODCC 19/04/09 (David & Goliath.doc)

Text: 1 Sam 17:45

Introduction

1. I am speaking from this text today because in our lives we each one of us encounter many goliaths and God does not want us, like the WHOLE army of Israel, to be terrified and incapable of victory.
 - a. In other words, God wants us to have victory, I believe, in most areas of our life.
 - b. There may be instances where we do not get victory, such as Paul and what he called “his thorn in the flesh”
 - c. But then, his “thorn in the flesh” rendered him weak and it was when he was weak that God showed Himself strong. So when our weakness or some other negative thing is a catalyst for a positive manifestation of God’s power and glory, then that weakness would be a positive thing.
 - d. The Israelite’s fear and impotence was because they had no faith – faithlessness made them look foolish.

Goliath vs David – a comparison

1. **Goliath represented idolatry.** Idolatry is the lack of acknowledgement of God. It shows itself in many forms such as false religions but also in modern-day humanism.
 - a. Vines Expository Dictionary says that it is the sin of the mind against God; and it is the sin of the flesh – acts that are done deliberately against God’s known will.
 - b. Goliath represents those then that hate God.
 - c. But David represented all that loved God and loved the way of God.
 - d. Love for God is not just loving God but it is loving everything revealed about God: we love His Word, we love His commands, we love His people, we love His church, we love His work, we love His presence, we love His promises, we love everything that is God and is of God – our lives are lived surrounded by God and submersed in God.
 - e. As the Bible says, “In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).
2. **Goliath boasted in his own self.** He was extraordinarily big – according to the measurements given, he was over 9 feet tall.
 - a. But he was as strong as he was tall. The scripture tells the weight of his armour (35 kg) and weapons (spearhead = 4.3 kg) – they were beyond the ability of the average man to use effectively but this champion, as he was called, could utilise his weapons with devastating results.
 - b. Not only that, but he was boastful. Maybe 3 or more of Israel’s finest would be prepared to take on Goliath together but he wanted a one-on-one and there was no-one in the camp able or willing – even King Saul of whom it was said that he “stood head and shoulders above everyone”. And he defied the ranks of Israel – the Hebrew word (charaph) means to blaspheme, to belittle. David said that he had defied the armies of the Living God.
 - c. The Bible teaches us that in a church there is strength in unity. We are like a body with different parts and the body cares for itself. There are times when we are called upon to care for the physical and material needs of our body, but God has also given us spiritual gifts and we use our gifts to build each other up in the faith.
 - d. But there are occasions when a Goliath confronts us and we find ourselves very much on our own – we face battles where God wants us to employ faith and trust and not see the size of the giant but be confident in the size of our God. The Israelites faced that test when the sent spies into Canaan and 12 of them went in and when they returned 10 of them were overwhelmed at the giants and 2 of them were confident in God’s ability.
 - e. It seems that David boasted to Saul about how he had killed a lion and bear but his boast was in the Lord. As a young man, David trusted in God and sought for God and found God to be real. And in that relationship God had trained David so that he had become a man of faith. “Blessed be the Lord...who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle” (Psalm 144).

Goliath's contempt for David

1. It says that Goliath saw David he disdained him. Goliath who had been insulting was now insulted that the Israelites had sent a boy. And a boy not even armed for battle – he had the simple weapons of a shepherd boy.
 - a. Insulted, Goliath threatens David with certain death and tells him that he will feed his remains to the birds (roadkill!).
2. From a natural point of view how would you feel, having volunteered to take on a giant of a man; a champion; an able soldier; and behind you is your army: they have no confidence in you; they're not lifting a finger to help you (in fact, they're getting ready to run in the opposite direction); and behind the giant is his army, all sneering and getting ready to run past your corpse to attack your countrymen?
 - a. How would you feel as you closed the gap between you and Goliath?
 - b. From a natural point of view there was no match. From a natural point of view Goliath would have slaughtered David.
 - c. But when God is on your side there is no natural point of view! David at least matched Goliath's mouth and said, today I will remove your head and the birds and wild animals will feed on the carcasses of your army.
3. I don't doubt that David was a superb marksman with his sling. I had a friend in my much younger days who had grown up on a farm and he used a sling just like David. He used to go out and kill guinea fowl.
 - a. You might say that it was good strategy on David's part in that he took Goliath by surprise. But I believe that it was God who enabled David by encouraging him all the way so that he was not put off by fear and possibilities.
 - b. And who guided his hand as he loaded and aimed the sling. And I believe that God gave that stone extra power so that it sunk into Goliath's forehead.
 - c. It doesn't matter your age, whether you're male or female, highly intelligent or average, if you and I can set our minds upon the greatness of God and learn to trust Him, God can give us the victory! He can train our hands for war and our fingers for battle.

Behind one man was an army

1. We saw that the Israelite army stood back, alarmed and without confidence. But when they saw David kill Goliath, they were filled with awe and encouragement. The opposite happened behind Goliath – the Philistines were dumbstruck because their champion had been killed and beheaded by a mere boy. Fear gripped them and they ran as the Israelites chased after them and won a great battle.
 - a. This story is there to encourage us to be like David. If you are not facing a Goliath in your life, at least make sure that you are developing a strong relationship with God and that God is teaching you faith and trust and perseverance so that when you meet lesser enemies such as bears and lions, God will teach you to trust in Him.
2. You may be facing a Goliath but do not feel like a David today. You may feel like one of the nancy soldiers with no confidence to go out to meet a champion.
 - a. David & Goliath was an unfair fight. It seems that it was unfair for David but actually it was unfair for Goliath. It was God who fought Goliath and next to God Goliath is a matchstick man. (There we were, 10 against a thousand and man, did we give those 10 a good hiding.)
 - b. I don't want to fight fair. If you are not able to face Goliath on your own, then let us believe God together.