

1. Introduction

- a. The story of David and Goliath is perhaps the most famous in the stories of David’s life
- b. It deals with the most fundamental question: How do you deal with fear? How do you fight battles that come to you in life?
- c. Usually this is read that Goliath symbolizes our worst fears and David symbolizes the way in which we should tackle our fears head on with courage and defeat the “Goliaths” in our lives—but that’s a shallow understanding of how to read this text.

2. “A Goliath’s Courage”

- a. Goliath is called a “champion” which literally means “the man between.”
 - i. He who would fight on behalf of his army. The winning champion fights on behalf of the whole army.
 - ii. He calls them out every day for forty days straight.
 - iii. But no one comes out because they’re all afraid.
 - iv. Most likely he is about 7 feet tall, he has the most high tech combat uniform and equipment (bronze, sophisticated armor, heavy, strong)
 - v. He was a hulking and mechanical monument of what constitutes power at the time.
 - vi. Goliath isn’t the embodiment of fears but rather he’s an embodiment of one way in which you and I can choose to tackle fear.
 - vii. He represents power as a way to “fight”
 - viii. How does Goliath deal with his envy and fear? He amassed power. How does he “fight?” He focuses on his strength (v. 7), insults others (v. 43), and taunts with his power (v. 44)
- b. The “Goliath” form of courage in the midst of a fight is a form of building self-esteem and relying on your own strengths to get through it
 - i. Goliath had all the external qualities of strength and this is what he leans on in the face of adversity
 - ii. Goliath equipped himself strongly for close contact but underestimated the power of the sling (it was said that slings could hurl stones around 60 miles/hour and were a formidable weapon much like arrows were)
 - iii. Goliath says “come to me” and he doesn’t go on the attack. He is defensive because he surely knew what was going on.
 - iv. This is one of the ways we can deal with our fears—false courage, simply trying to squash your fears means you’re not dealing with them.
 1. Goliath was so focused on his own strength in the battle that he completely ignored the reality of the situation
 2. Goliath literally has lowered his shield (v. 41—he has someone else carrying his shield which shows he was ill-equipped for the fight)
 3. “Goliath courage” is a false sense of courage when in the battle—it chooses to banish fears, ignore reality and lean on our own strengths to get through life

3. “A Champion’s Courage”

- a. Are we then meant to say “well, I’ll be like a David and run straight into the fight and muster enough courage to get through it”? No!
- b. If anything, we can’t identify with either Goliath (false courage masked in bravado and will power) or David (blind courage that has complete abandon)—but rather it suits us better to identify with the Israelites themselves.
 - i. They were afraid (v. 11)
 - ii. And what does God give them in their fear? A new type of champion to fight on their behalf
 - iii. He gives them a champion. Not just an example.

- iv. He gives them someone to “stand between”—substitution.
- v. David doesn't say “follow me”—instead he goes instead of them. He's a savior. He's a champion.
 - 1. And he appeared weak (v. 11)—a young, untrained lad but this is exactly *how* he was able to win—not despite his weakness but through his weakness
 - 2. His status made Goliath go into the fight with his shields down
 - 3. It made Goliath go in with his shields down.
 - 4. It was in David's time in the fields (being the outcast, 8th child so to speak) that he is properly, though not obviously, equipped to battle Goliath
 - 5. He learns to use the sling. All because he was small and shunned.
- vi. Furthermore. David was the substitution. He would go out on behalf of others.
 - 1. His victory becomes the people's victory.
 - 2. He was the legal representative of the people
 - 3. And it was not the champion we would have picked.
- c. David and Goliath is a good story, but if you only associate with David instead of seeing who he points to you'll have courage up to a point to fight the battles, but not courage enough
 - i. Indeed—even the Bible says not to solely focus on David
 - ii. Hebrews 11: 32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.
 - iii. Hebrews 12: and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - iv. The writer mentions David but says to fix our eyes on the true champion—Jesus.
 - v. David is pointing to the real champion who takes away all our fears and fights our greatest battles.
 - 1. He gives us humility and hope at the same time through his weakness.
 - a. What is our greatest fear? Loss of love, life, alienation from people and our maker?
 - b. All of this is taken care of. Our ultimate nightmares are answered.
 - c. This is how David can write Psalm 30:
 - i. Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
 - d. He endured the pain and loss for what? The joy. What's that? Us!
 - i. True courage is not the absence of fear. It's the presence of joy.
 - ii. Perfect what casts out all fear? Perfect courage? No. Perfect love (1 John 4:18).
 - 2. Jesus was the little guy who became our champion.

4. Conclusion

- a. How to apply this? How does this practically help you deal with your fears?
- b. By looking to his heroism for you—Jesus the ultimate David running out to the battle in your place so you no longer need to fear your personal battles but know that he's already gone before you and won!