

1 Samuel 17:11-29

A Cause Worth Fighting For

For anyone to put themselves in danger, especially a life or death situation, they must have a good reason for it. David understood that the glory of God was at stake, and that was the best reason to get in the fight. When we face the enemy with faith-filled courage, God gives us victory, and the rewards will be blessings for us and the glory of God.

I. The _____ of Saul and the Soldiers (1 Samuel 17:11)

- The problem is not that they were tempted to fear, the problem was that they gave in to the temptation and allowed fear to _____ their actions. (*Proverbs 22:3; Joshua 1:9; 2 Timothy 1:7*)
- Saul and the soldiers were paralyzed by a particularly dangerous form of fear, the fear of _____. (*Proverbs 29:25*)
- The greatest harm happens to us if we live a life _____ God or _____ of God's will. (*Psalms 37:1-2; Matthew 10:28*)

II. The _____ of David (1 Samuel 17:12-22)

- Being a shepherd was not _____ David, because he was where God wanted him to be doing what God wanted him to do.
- If you are not faithful in the _____ things, you will not be faithful in the big things. (*Luke 16:10; Jeremiah 45:5a*)
- There is one quality above all others that God is looking for in His _____: faithfulness. (*1 Corinthians 4:2*)

III. The _____ of David (1 Samuel 17:23-27)

- David had a mindset of faith-filled _____ and not fear. (*Proverbs 28:*)
- David was most concerned about the _____ being done to God's reputation by the army of Israel's fear-filled inaction.
- Only when God's reputation means more to you than _____ else will you have the faith-filled courage to stand up against the enemy.

IV. The _____ of Eliab (1 Samuel 17:28-29)

- Eliab's response was one of faithlessness. He _____ his brother and he was a traitor to God. He was unwittingly fighting for the enemy.
- We have the best reason to fight! We are God's army! His reputation is at stake, and He will give us the _____! (*1 Timothy 6:12*)
- You should be fighting yourself and you should be _____ others to fight because we have a cause worth fighting for.

Conclusion

David was not interested in boosting his image or building his brand. He was grieved by the cowardice he saw around him and the harm it was doing to God's reputation. He was willing to fight, not for his glory but for God's. Don't hide from the enemy and don't run from the battle because the _____ is worth fighting for.

PBC PRAYER POINTS

Shut-ins

Elsie Banks | Jane Haynes

Ongoing Health Needs

Connie Bladine | Pat Hill

Eula Keener | Marvin

Ragsdale | Brian Thompson

Ann Whitley | Sophia Rambo

Elaine Milam | Betsy

Grenevitch | Aaron McIntyre

Calvin B.

Unsaved

Corey | B. B. | R.V. | Chris

Christy | Sarah |

Church Ministries

Sunday School | Children's

Church | Frontline Children's

Program | Teen Ministry |

Outreach Programs | Music

Ministry | Regular Services

Church Staff

The Chambers | The Riffels

Deacons

David Almand | David

Bachman | Dean McAvoy

Austin Jones | Drew McIntyre

National Officials

President Joe Biden

Vice President Kamala Harris

Senators Ossoff & Warnock

Representative Jody Hice

Supreme Court Justices:

Ketanji Jackson | Neil

Gorsuch | Clarence Thomas

Sonia Sotomayer | Elena

Kagan | Amy Coney

Barrett | Brett Kavanaugh

Stephen Breyer | John

Roberts

State/Local Officials

Governor Brian Kemp

Lt. Governor Burt Jones

State House Rep. Tim

Fleming | State Senator Brian

Strickland | Rutledge Mayor

Bruce Altnauer

Missionary Updates

Santhosh & Sophie George - India

Praises:

- God provided a meeting hall for their first "General Convention" evangelistic meeting January 11-14.
- Six church cooperated to host the meeting. They had an average of 300 in attendance each night with many unsaved present.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray as they follow up with contacts made through the meeting.
- Pray for the salvation of Elias, Enusha, and Ashna.
- Pray for Regy, a man in his mid-thirties addicted to alcohol.

Kelly Love - Missionary, Formerly to Brazil

Praises:

- Kelly is back in the states on Furlough after concluding her ministry in Brazil.

Prayer Requests:

- Kelly is seeking the Lord's will about a future ministry. She is planning to take a survey trip to Europe in March to evaluate two possible ministry opportunities. Pray that God will give her specific wisdom for this decision.

Thomas & Linda Gilmer - Brazil

Praises:

- Praise for the for the professions of faith in 2023: 1 Jew, 221 Gentiles.
- Praise the Lord for a new building for Templo Batista de Indianópolis (TBI) Church and Day School to be finished and dedicated in August.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for ongoing Bible projects and study helps, digital and systems, and personnel for the minister.
- Pray for the visit to Israel by Pastor Alexandre Dutra, January 27 - February 15.

Recent Requests

- Please be in prayer for Pam B. She has a very bad cold with fever and cough. Pray that this will not develop into pneumonia.
- Matt Barron requests prayer for the father of a friend of his at work. He has been diagnosed with rapid congestive heart failure.
- Pray for a relative of the Stephan's, Cierra, who has been in the hospital with a serious illness and has had to have both arms and legs amputated.
- Pray for Donna T. as she has tests to try to determine the cause of some ongoing health issues.

1 Samuel 17:11-29

A Cause Worth Fighting For

Why would someone risk their life for another? Some would do it for love of that person. Others might do it because they want to be seen as a hero. Still more would do it out of a sense of duty. But for anyone to put themselves in danger, especially a life or death situation, they must have a good reason for it.

When David arrived on the scene in 1 Samuel 17, he found an army that was paralyzed by fear and an enemy that was emboldened. He was in the middle of an upside down situation that could have turned deadly in an instant. What could he, a young man with little military training, do against a frightfully deadly giant? He could trust God and face the enemy in faith instead of hiding in fear.

When Satan, our enemy, and those who serve him try to frighten us into submissive silence, we will be tempted to hide and avoid the conflict. To stand up against him makes us a target for the enemy and for the cowards on our side. We will face the attacks of the devil and fearful Christians who will misjudge and criticize us. Why would we place ourselves in such a dangerous position? Because God's reputation is worth fighting for. David understood that the glory of God was at stake, and that was the best reason to get in the fight. When we face the enemy with faith-filled courage, God gives us victory, and the rewards will be blessings for us and the glory of God.

I. The Fearfulness of Saul and the Soldiers

1 Samuel 17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

No one can blame Saul and his army for being tempted to fear Goliath and the Philistines. They were frightening and any reasonable person would have evaluated Goliath objectively and determined that he was a huge threat to their life. We have a God-given ability to perceive danger and avoid it to protect ourselves and others. (Proverbs 22:3) The problem is not that they were tempted to fear, the problem was that they gave in to the temptation and allowed fear to determine their actions.

Allowing fear to control your life is a sin. We are repeatedly commanded in the Bible “be not afraid” and “fret not.” These instructions are more than good advice; they are an integral part of God's statutes that we are to live by.

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Saul and the soldiers were paralyzed by a particularly dangerous form of fear, the fear of man. It is one thing to have a fear of a venomous snake. It is another to fear what a disease might do to your body. But the fear of man is based on the irrational and untruthful assumption that people can do you the greatest harm and therefore avoiding the dangers people present is the best form of protection. This kind of fear traps you into a vicious cycle of hiding and scheming to protect yourself from what you imagine people might do. Instead of fearing God, we fear man, and instead of trusting God, we trust ourselves for our safety.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Anyone who fears man more than God needs to correct his thinking. Man is not the greatest threat to us because they cannot do the greatest harm. **The greatest harm happens to us if we live a life without God or outside of God's will.** We are to fear God, in the proper way, and not fear man.

Psalms 37:1-2 A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. [2] For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Saul and the soldiers were scared. For forty days they cowered and hid while Goliath taunted and jeered. Someone needed to do something, but neither the king nor any of his men had the courage to step up.

II. The Faithfulness of David

1 Samuel 17:12-22 Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehemjudah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons; and the man went among men for an old man in the days of Saul. [13] And the three eldest sons of Jesse went and followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. [14] And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul. [15] But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. [16] And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days. [17] And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; [18] And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. [19] Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. [20] And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. [21] For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. [22] And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

At the end of 1 Samuel 16, we read of David serving in Saul's court. He was originally brought in as a royal musician to play for Saul when he was overcome with fits of rage, but then he was promoted to being the armor-bearer of Saul. After some time, David was sent home from the king's court and went to go back to his old job keeping sheep. This is an important part to the story. When we see David in 1 Samuel 17, he is back in his old place, doing his old job, just as before. Most people would view that as a demotion, but David apparently didn't think so. **Being a shepherd was not beneath him, because he was where God wanted him to be doing what God wanted him to do.**

God used David's faithfulness to present him with the opportunity to accomplish one of the greatest feats in all the Bible and all of history. Had David not been willing to tend the flock and obey his father's instructions to deliver the care package to his brothers in the army, he may never have had the chance to face Goliath.

We often think that the little things don't matter very much. We long to be given a chance to do something big, and then we think we would do something really great. God says the opposite. **If you are not faithful in the little things, you will not be faithful in the big things.**

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Consequently, many people waste their life always chasing bigger and better opportunities. They are obsessed with climbing the corporate ladders and becoming the next big things. It is wrong to

live for self-promotion. Promotion comes from God, and our responsibility is to live for Him and follow His leading in our lives, no matter how small the task He calls us to do.

Jeremiah 45:5a And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not.

When God looks to promote someone, He is not interested in their educational success or their corporate achievements. **There is one quality above all others that God is looking for in His servants: faithfulness.**

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

David had many positive things to list on his resumé, but none of them would have mattered if he had not been faithful.

III. The Fearlessness of David

1 Samuel 17:23-27 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. [24] And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. [25] And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. [26] And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? [27] And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.

Soon after David arrived at the camp, Goliath came out to give the Israelites their daily dose of dread. David saw the terror that the soldiers were living in firsthand as they ran and hid. He saw the cowardice in the camp, and he couldn't keep quiet.

David asked a simple question: **"What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"** That was a courageous question! He was not thinking about hiding, He was thinking about fighting. He was not thinking about being killed, but about killing. He was not thinking about Goliath's advantages, but his disadvantages ("uncircumcised Philistine," meaning that Goliath was not one of God's people). He was not thinking about preserving his life, but preserving the reputation of God. **David had a mindset of faith-filled courage and not fear.**

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

The soldiers responded by telling David all that king Saul had offered for the one who would fight and kill Goliath. The king would give him lots of money, let him marry the princess, and make all his family free from future conscription. That is basically the ending of every fairy tale ever: "and they lived happily ever after." But the material and marital rewards were not what David was interested in. **He was most concerned about the damage being done to God's reputation by the army of Israel's fear-filled inaction.**

The same thing still happens all too often. Christians are afraid to speak up and speak out because they fear man. They are afraid they might be mocked or marginalized or rejected. No amount of material reward would be enough to overcome those fears. **Only when God's reputation means more to you than anything else will you have the faith-filled courage to stand up against the enemy.**

IV. The Faithlessness of Eliab

1 Samuel 17:28-29 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. [29] And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

1 Samuel 17:28 seems to come out of nowhere. Instead of standing up for his little brother, Eliab tries to put him down and insulted him. Why would Eliab do that? Perhaps he was bitter at being overlooked by Samuel. Perhaps he did not like being shown up by his little brother in front of his soldier buddies. Whatever the reason, **Eliab's response was one of faithlessness. He betrayed his brother and he was a traitor to God.** He tried to do the same thing that Goliath was doing: discourage anyone from fighting. He was unwittingly fighting for the enemy.

Eliab said three degrading things. First, he asked, “Why camest thou down hither?” “What are you doing here? You shouldn’t even be here” was what he was implying. Then he asked, “With whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness?” He would have preferred that David stay out of sight and be insignificant. He could not stand the thought that David might do something important and eclipse him in fame. “Therefore (such is the nature of jealousy) he would rather that Goliath should triumph over Israel than that David should be the man that should triumph over him.” (Matthew Henry) Finally he said, “I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.” He questioned David’s motives and essentially called him an arrogant busybody. One commentary summed up Eliab’s response this way: “Eliab sought for the splinter in his brother's eye, and was not aware of the beam in his own. The very things with which he charged his brother - presumption and wickedness of heart - were most apparent in his scornful reproof.” (Keil & Delitzsch)

David’s response was heroic. It was a simple question, but one that has resounded down through the halls of time and still rings loudly and clearly for all who stand on the edge of battle. “What have I now done? Is there not a cause?” David was saying, “Do I not have a good reason for being here? Do I not have good reason for asking these questions? Do we not have a good reason to go and fight this giant?” The answer is not given, but implied. Yes! We have a good reason to fight. **We have the best reason to fight! We are God’s army! His reputation is at stake, and He will give us the victory!**

As Christians, we have been commanded to engage this world with the gospel. We have been commanded to do combat with the enemy who opposes us and those who serve him. “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12) Why would we mock, belittle, and insult a Christian who puts himself forward to engage the enemy? Is it because we are bitter about being overlooked? It is because we feel threatened by their potential success? You betray God and your Christian brothers and sisters when you discourage them from fighting the good fight. **You should be fighting yourself and you should be encouraging others to fight because we have a cause worth fighting for.**

Conclusion

David was not interested in boosting his image or building his brand. He was grieved by the cowardice he saw around him and the harm it was doing to God’s reputation. He was willing to fight, not for his glory but for God’s. **Don’t hide from the enemy and don’t run from the battle because the glory of God is worth fighting for.**