

Lesson 21 - The young hero and the horrible giant David and Goliath, from I Samuel 17

The Jesus Storybook Bible - pgs. 122 - 129

Lesson

The well-known story of David and Goliath is a stirring account of courage and faith in God in the face of overwhelming odds. David is just a youth and has no great physical prowess or military might, but he is still able to slay the giant Philistine warrior Goliath. In itself, the story is a clarion call to the reader to be brave, to have faith in God, and to face the giants of life steadfastly.

If you look at the story of David and Goliath in itself, without seeing how it fits into the Bible's overall story (about how God saves us by grace through Christ), the story turns into a moralistic exhortation to "try harder." The moral of the story becomes, "Be like David," or, "Have faith like David and you will have courage."

If we read David and Goliath as basically an example, then the story is really about us — we must summon up the faith and courage to face our fears and fight the giants in our lives. There is another way to read it. Jesus tells us in Luke 24 that everything in the Scriptures reveals something about him. David was Jesus' forefather.

So, how does David reveal to us something of the ultimate King and Deliverer, Jesus? As soon as we begin to answer that question — to put the story of David into the Bible's overall story — we notice some striking similarities:

Like David, Jesus came to his task of deliverance not strong but weak. Like David, Jesus served in the place of the people he was trying to deliver, so that his victory became their victory. (In the case of David, rather than the two armies fighting a full battle, each side puts forth a "champion," a representative. If your army's champion wins the fight, the whole nation wins the battle.) Like David, Jesus saves his people by grace, giving them a victory that they did nothing themselves to earn.

Unlike David, however, Jesus did all this not merely at the risk of his life but at the cost of his life. Also unlike David, Jesus did all this not merely to deliver us from the giant of physical captivity, but from the giants of sin and death. We are like the Israelites; we can't save ourselves. But God does not send the Israelites an example to emulate and inspire them to overcome their fears; he sends a savior.

Of course, the story is a call to be courageous, but if we read the account of David and Goliath as primarily showing us salvation through Jesus, then the story is not just about us, but about him. If we read it this way, we not only have a call to be courageous, but we receive the power to do so. To the degree we rejoice and grasp deeply that Jesus fought the real giants (sin, death) for us — the only giants that can truly hurt us — we will have the courage to be able to fight the giants in life (suffering, disappointment, failure, criticism, hardship).

Memory Verse

Psalm 16:8 - "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. I will not be shaken."

***Lesson taken from *The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas.

If you do not have a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible, we will have them for purchase in Cranmer Hall for \$10.