



“REASONS TO REJOICE”

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

I and II SAMUEL Lesson 9

In our last lesson we were introduced to David, the man after God’s own heart. God told Samuel to stop mourning for Saul and go find David, the son of Jesse, and anoint him as the next King of Israel. The Spirit of God had left Saul, and he was being troubled by a distressing spirit. David was called into Saul’s service to play his harp for him. This would refresh him by driving the distressing spirit away. At this point, Saul has no idea who this young man is.

In chapter 17, we get a glimpse of why David was God’s choice for a king. His complete faith in the God of Israel is an incredible lesson for us today. Although you probably have read the story of David and Goliath many times, study it like you never have before. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring you new application that will challenge you in your walk with the Lord. (I love this story, don’t you? Is there anything more exciting than to watch God defeat Goliath? We’ll see who the real giant is!)

First Day

We begin our lesson today with yet another attack from the Philistines. Spend some time in prayer before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to prepare and speak to your heart.

- 1. Read I Samuel 17:1-19. What is the main point in this section? Are there any key words or phrases? Who are the main characters?*

- 2. Read I Samuel 17:20-37. What is the main point of this section? Are there any repeated words or phrases? Who are the main characters?*

3. *Read I Samuel 17:38-58. What is the main point in this section? Are there any repeated words or phrases? Who are the main characters?*

4. *Summarize this chapter in one or two sentences. What would you title it? (Be creative!)*

5. *What qualities do you see in David from this chapter that make him a man “after God’s heart”?*

6. *What is the first personal application God brought to your heart as you read this chapter?*

We’ll end here for today. Tomorrow we’ll look at this chapter more closely. I pray that God will give us courage to fight the “Goliaths” in our lives as we depend on His power and strength.

Memory Verse of the Week: *“Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, 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 defiled.’” I Samuel 17:45*

Second Day

Practice your memory verse. Are you letting the God of Israel fight the battle for you?

The Philistines rally again to attack Israel. This time they position themselves on a mountain in Sochoh, which was in territory that belonged to Judah. The Israelites were on a mountain on the other side. They now faced each other, with a broad and fertile valley between them. (Can you picture them eyeing each other?)

1. *Read I Samuel chapter 17 again. Who was the Philistine champion? How is he described?*
2. *What was his challenge?*
3. *How long did he taunt them? (vs 16)*
4. *How did the Israelites respond to the challenge?*
5. *Where was Saul? What should he have been doing? (Read Deuteronomy 20:1-4.) Israel wanted a king that would do what? (I Samuel 8:19-20)*

*Goliath was a big man. (That's an understatement!) He was somewhere between 9 and 10 feet tall! The word "**champion**" literally means a man between the two, a go-between, or a challenger. A champion did not fight in the ranks like ordinary soldiers, but came forth in the space between the hostile camps to challenge the enemy! "The ancient Greeks, to whom the Philistines were apparently related, sometimes decided issues of war through chosen champions who met in combat between the armies.*

Through this economy of warriors the judgement of the gods on the matter at stake was determined.” (LifeChange Series)

The “coat of mail” that Goliath wore was like a breastplate of scales, a kind of metal shirt that protected the back as well as the breast. It was made of scales like those of a fish. The armor weighed about 200 pounds. The bronze “greave” was armor for his legs that extended from the ankle to the knee. The bronze javelin lay in the quiver that rested between his shoulders. The iron spearhead was metal that flashed like a flame. This guy was one scary dude!!

6. *Why was David sent to the battlefield? What was he supposed to do?*

David must have worked in Saul’s service part time (I Samuel 16:21) and worked as a shepherd the rest of the time (17:15). He certainly was about to see some action!

7. *What was promised to the man who could defeat the giant?*

8. *How did David respond when he understood what was going on?*

9. *How is David’s response an example to us as we face adversity? (How was his response different than the rest of the Hebrews?)*

10. *What bothered David the most about the situation?*

11. *This is the first time we hear David speak. (vs 26) What can we tell about his relationship to God from his first statement?*

This teenager had a heart for God, even as a young boy. He was absolutely mortified that anyone would dare to defy his God! His faith rested in a great God. He knew and trusted the God of Israel, and his actions were evidence of that faith.

12. *How is God defied today? How do you respond? What should we do when we hear others defying the God of Israel?*

*That's it ladies! Think about how quick David was to defend the name of his God. I pray that we would be as quick to stand up for the name of the Lord whenever we are put in the same position. Paul said "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
(Romans 1:16)*

Third Day

What's your memory verse? How does it speak to your heart?

- 1.** *Let's read I Samuel 17:28-58 again. There's so much more to discuss!*
- 2.** *Why do you think Eliab was so harsh with David in verse 28?
(Were his accusations true?)*
- 3.** *What does David's response in verse 29 lead us to believe?*
- 4.** *What did David say to Saul? How did Saul respond?*

David was faced with a challenge that seemed beyond his abilities. He received criticism from his family, and the king doubted him. No one believed that David could do it. David didn't think he could do it either, but he believed God could! So often others try to discourage us from doing what God has called us to do. People size us up, measuring our abilities by our appearance or by our experience. Again, isn't it awesome that God looks at the heart, not at our appearance?

5. *How did David respond to the resistance?*

6. *Time to get personal. Have you ever faced a challenge that appeared to be beyond your ability or capabilities? What happened?*

7. *Is there a challenge that you're facing right now that appears to be beyond your ability? What should you do?*

8. *Are we always supposed to accept the challenges that come our way? (How do our talents and capabilities figure in to this equation?)*

If God calls us to face a giant -- whether it's a person, task, or any other situation -- the enemy always seems to make us feel that we are not capable. He will tell us that we are inadequate. (Who do we think WE are to do this or that?) He will use others to criticize us, to strip away our confidence, telling us it can't be done. David didn't allow the opinion of others to weaken his faith in God.

9. *Why does David bring up a lion and a bear? What is he saying?*

Wiersbe said this, "David had proved the power of God privately in the fields caring for his sheep; now he would demonstrate this power publicly to the glory of God. God tested David privately with a lion and a bear; now he was to test him openly with a giant. If we are faithful in the private battles, God will see us through the public testings."

10. *Does God still test us privately? How? (Are you being tested?)*

11. *Why could David be so confident? (Do you think he was too sure of himself? Why or why not?)*

Take some time today to pray about whatever "challenge" you may be facing. Let's rejoice that the God of Israel is always with us, fighting the battles for us. I pray that our faith will be evident to all those around us.

Fourth Day

Review your memory verse.

1. *Read I Samuel 17:38-58 one more time! I can't seem to get out of this chapter. There are so many lessons we just can't afford to miss!*

David convinces Saul that he is the right man for the job, and Saul sends him out to battle, but he wanted to help him get ready first.

2. *What did Saul encourage David to wear?*

3. *Why didn't David wear it? What did he do instead?*
4. *How did Goliath respond when he realized David was going to fight against him?*
5. *How did David respond to Goliath's "trash talk"? What comparison did he make?*
6. *According to verses 46-47, what did David want the whole earth to know after he won this battle? Why?*

Not only would the ancient world know that the battle was the Lord's, the Holy Spirit put this story in the Bible so you and I would be reminded as well!

7. *What weapons are we supposed to use in our battles? Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. What is the armor of God?*
8. *What are some "weapons of the world"? Why aren't we supposed to use them?*
9. *Back to our story. Who won? Describe the battle.*

10. How many stones were used?

11. What happened after Goliath was killed? What did Israel do? What did David do? Why?

12. How did Saul respond?

No one really knows why David took five stones. Some say it was because Goliath had four sons (2 Samuel 21:22), but it seems unlikely that David would know that. Some think he brought five in case he missed with the first. I don't know the answer to that, but isn't it just like God to prove who He is by using one, single shot?

It is not exactly clear why Saul did not recognize David if he was working as his armor bearer and playing his harp for him. Some believe that Saul's unstable mental condition caused forgetfulness, and he didn't recognize David. Others believe that Saul was asking about David's family because he had promised his daughter would marry whomever killed the giant, and he wanted to know more about him. Saul probably had many servants at his service, so he could confuse them easily.

Commentator Ronald Youngblood makes an interesting observation on why Saul gave David his armor: "In giving David his armor and weaponry, Saul was desirous of giving David every advantage. However, Saul was also good at finding advantage for himself. It was believed that to wear the clothing of another was to be imbued with his essence and to share his very being ... these later acts were probably calculated to bind David to Saul so that Saul would be able to take credit for, or at least share in, David's victory over the Philistine giant."

See you tomorrow!

Fifth Day

Write your verse from memory. Did it minister to your heart?

Now that we finished our chapter, let's go back and look at a few more lessons that God has for us. You may want to review the chapter.

- 1. The enemy often tries to intimidate us. Name some ways that the enemy tried to intimidate David. (i.e.; the size of the enemy)*

- 2. Has the enemy ever tried to intimidate you? How? (What should you do?)*

- 3. Saul tried to make David into something he was not (a soldier). What does David's response to that teach us?*

- 4. What does this story teach us about overcoming evil? Read 1 John 5:4, Colossians 2:15, and John 16:33.*

- 5. Did David let everyone know that he was the next King of Israel? What does this tell us about David?*

- 6. We often face giants in our life. What giant are you facing right now? How does this story encourage you?*

God allows giants in our life all the time. It could be a particular person, a difficult situation, or a physical problem. It could be a financial stress or family issues. It could be something you are constantly tempted with. Goliath is a symbol of the giants we face daily. However big the “giant” is, God is bigger! The giant actually becomes a dwarf when it comes face to face with God!

7. Why do you think God allows giants in our life? How did God use the giant in David’s life for His glory?

8. Saul faced Goliath too. What weaknesses did the giant reveal in him?

9. Are you allowing your “giant” to strengthen you or weaken you?

10. Compare Saul with what we know so far about David.

11. How does this story build your faith?

12. Read Psalm 27:1-3. Write your thoughts.

Charles Swindoll mentions a few more points about giants that I thought were valuable to share with you: “First, facing giants is an intimidating experience. Faith doesn’t blind us to reality, but it does enable us to see beyond the externals as we draw on God’s power. Second, doing battle is a lonely experience. You and the Lord are the only one who can fight your battles together. Your pastor can’t fight them, nor can your counselor or your friend. They may stand behind you, but only you can cross the battle line. Third, trusting God is a stabilizing experience. It’s amazing how calm David was. It was as if he knew the outcome even before he stepped into the battle. Fourth, winning victories is a memorable experience. Has God come through for you in the past? Hang on to those victories; write them in marble, not sand. Then when a greater test comes, your faith will have a solid place to stand.”

One more great paragraph ...

“We see that David is a picture of Christ. David’s name means “beloved,” and Christ is God’s beloved son. Both of them were born in Bethlehem. Both were first rejected by their brethren. David was anointed king years before he was permitted to reign, just as Christ is King now but will not reign on earth until Satan is banished. Saul was rejected and defeated, yet permitted to reign until David came to the throne. Satan is permitted to persecute God’s people, although he has been defeated.”
(Warren Wiersbe)

***“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him,
and I am helped ...” Psalm 28:7a***