

## PART 17 - SERMON MANUSCRIPT - Seeing God, Not Giants

This week I asked Google to list the top five most recognizable Bible stories.<sup>1</sup>

### [SLIDE 1] Here's the list:

1. The Birth of Jesus
2. Noah's Ark
3. Adam and Eve
- 4. David and Goliath**
5. Moses when he split the sea

So, I'm thinking, maybe David and Goliath made the number four spot, because we see it as this classic "underdog" story.

Everybody likes underdog stories where, against all odds:

The good guys win.

Fear's defeated.

The battle's won.

That's usually how David and Goliath is taught.

It's used as an illustration where David represents us — the underdog. And Goliath represents our struggles in life...

Things like: fear... temptations... addictions... even people we see as our enemies.

These struggles are the "giants" we don't feel strong enough to face.

So when we read about David as a young man defeating this giant warrior, ...that *feels* like the classic underdog story.

And naturally, *we want* to be like David.

*We want* to defeat our giants.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://share.google/aimode/SN89wDamQM6iT5fko>

**But here's the problem:**

**[SLIDE 2] What if I told you that the story of David and Goliath *isn't* about facing our giants?**

What if I told you...

*David isn't even the underdog.*

Not even close.

**So what's David and Goliath *really* about?**

Well, the only way to answer that is to consider everything that came before it.

And honestly, ever since we started this series,  
This is one of the things I've been most excited about.

I've been wondering how walking slowly through 1 Samuel would help us see a familiar story — but in the way that it was meant to be seen.

And so, this week as I looked back through the chapters,  
I noticed something...

**[SLIDE 3] In 1 Samuel, people are constantly “seeing” things, but not everyone “sees” in the same way.**

Some look at what's right in front of them and react in fear.  
Others learn to see through the lens of who God is.

Here's just a few examples:

**Ch. 1** — While Israel was doing what was right in their own eyes, Hannah stood out from the crowd as she cried out to the LORD, pleading with Him to *look* on her suffering.

**Ch. 3** — And Samuel began to see the LORD at work, while Eli's *sight* was literally failing.

**Ch. 10–15** — Saul and Israel continually *look* at their situation and react in fear.

**Ch. 16** — Samuel sees Eliab, Jesse's oldest son and thinks,  
*"Surely this is the LORD's anointed."*

Over and over again in 1 Samuel, we've been encountering people who are looking at their situations from either a human perspective, or God's perspective.

And what we're learning from that is this:

**[SLIDE 4] How we interpret what we're seeing actually matters.**

That's the pattern that 1 Samuel has been showing us.

**Will we look at the world the way God does... or not?**

**Will we seek His Kingdom... or something else?**

But it's not just a pattern.

**God is teaching us through His Word,  
 how to see the world from His perspective.**

That's why the most important verse in 1 Samuel,  
 lands right in the heart of the book:

**[SLIDE 5] 1 Samuel 16:7 - The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**

**This verse is our interpretive lens for the whole book.**

We saw this last week with the story that comes right before David and Goliath...

Remember when Saul was being tormented by a harmful spirit?

One of Saul's attendants said, *"Hey, I know a guy. The LORD is with him. When he plays his music, you'll feel better."*

And so David comes, plays for Saul, and Saul feels better.  
 But the relief doesn't last. The cycle keeps repeating.

**Here's what we're meant to notice:**

The LORD's presence was what drove the harmful spirit away.  
But Saul didn't see it that way.

The LORD was showing Himself to Saul through David,  
And Saul missed it.

**That's the tragedy.**

Because Saul wasn't looking for what God was doing.  
He was only looking for results.

So when the music made him feel better — He was happy.  
But he never stopped to recognize that the LORD was right there in front of him.

**Saul was interpreting his situation through the lens of his comfort...  
not through the lens of God's presence.**

He could see that something was happening...  
but **he couldn't see who was behind it.**

Again, this story, and really, the whole book of 1 Samuel,  
is teaching us how to see the world from God's perspective.

That's why 1 Samuel 16:7 sits directly in the middle of the book.

The writer wants us to see that:

**People look at the outward appearance — but the LORD looks at the heart.**

Saul was focused on his physical condition.  
He just wanted to feel better.  
But he wasn't paying attention to the condition of his heart.

And because of that,  
Saul missed what the LORD was doing right in front of him.

**That's the key that unlocks the meaning of the David and Goliath story.**

Because...

**[SLIDE 6] The story of David and Goliath is actually the story of Saul and David, and how they see reality differently.**

We've got two people, Saul and David.  
They're looking at the same situation...  
but they're seeing it in completely different ways.

**Again, 1 Samuel 17 isn't about facing our giants.  
It's about seeing the world through God's perspective.**

And once we realize that, we start to see that this is all over the text.  
So let's take a closer look...

**When Goliath comes out to the battlefield... what does Saul see?**

**[SLIDE 7] 1 Samuel 17:11 - On hearing [Goliath's] words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.**

Why were they terrified?

Because of Goliath's *appearance*.

The writer spends *four verses* describing what he looked like...

**[SLIDE 8] 1 Samuel 17:4-7 (on screen, don't read)**

So what's he look like?

Well, he's huge!

The NIV says he stood 6 cubits and a span—  
That's about 9ft 9in tall! (show with tape measure)

But it's not just his height that was impressive.

It's also what he's wearing:

- A bronze helmet
- A coat of bronze scale armor weighing about 125lbs
- Bronze grieves protecting his legs
- A bronze javelin on his back
- And a spear weighing about 15lbs
- And a shield bearer that went out in front of him

Think about this — He's carrying 150lbs worth of equipment,  
and he's still able to fight.

This isn't just any normal soldier.

**Goliath was a well trained and extremely capable warrior.  
—probably the best the Philistines had.**

That's why he went out to fight for them.

The idea was simple:  
Have the best warrior represent each nation.  
And whoever wins decides the fate of the nation.

Why do this?

Because the Philistines already suffered a pretty tough loss against the Israelites back in chapter 14. So they're switching up their strategy — And it's working.

In fact, look at this:

**[SLIDE 9] 1 Samuel 17:16, 24 - For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand ... Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.**

**Forty. Days.**

That's a long time to be at a standstill.  
And the longer this went on, the more the Israelites feared.

**But David looks at this situation from a completely different perspective.**

When Goliath went out to the battlefield and began mocking the Israelites, David said:

**[SLIDE 10] 1 Samuel 17:26 - Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?**

**He's the only Israelite *not* trembling in fear.**

Why?

Not because he was braver than anyone else.  
It wasn't because he was young and naive.

It was because he was seeing the situation differently than everyone else.

Look at what he said to king Saul:

**[SLIDE 11] 1 Samuel 17:32-33 - David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.” Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”**

There it is.

**Two completely different ways of seeing the same situation.**

David sees the situation through the lens of the LORD.

Saul sees it through the lens of fear.

**But how can David be so confident?**

It's because he's seen the LORD rescue him before.

He told Saul:

**[SLIDE 12] 1 Samuel 17:37 - The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.**

Notice that David's not trusting on his own strength.

From a human perspective,

***he knows he doesn't stand a chance...***

He would've looked like a grasshopper in Goliath's eyes!

But from a spiritual perspective...

David knows the LORD stands with him,  
and he trusts that the LORD will deliver him again.

So...

**[SLIDE 13] 1 Samuel 17:37 - ...Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”**

Saul might as well have said, “*Good luck!*”

He wasn't really acknowledging that the LORD was with David.

**So then why would Saul take the chance on David?**

Well...

David's point about the lion and the bear was that **the LORD delivered him.**

**But Saul sees it differently.**

He sees that David handled himself in dangerous situations before...

So he's thinking in terms of what might actually work.

Like—*if no one can defeat Goliath up close...*

*Maybe a long-range weapon could do it?*

**So what we're seeing is this:**

**[SLIDE 14] David's confidence was in the LORD. Saul's confidence was in strategy.**

But even with a new strategy,  
Saul wanted to increase the odds...

Just in case things didn't go according to plan,  
Saul dressed David in his own armor...

**[SLIDE 15] 1 Samuel 17:38-39 - He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.**

Remember, Saul was a tall guy too — and David was still young.

David tried walking around in Saul's gear, but he said...

**[SLIDE 16] 1 Samuel 17:39 - "I cannot go in these"**

This reminds me of the Lord of the Rings movies when Pippin is dressed in armor that doesn't quite fit! But he makes it work.

David, however, took off Saul's armor, grabbed his staff, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in his shepherd's bag, and with his sling in hand, he went out to see Goliath.

But he didn't go alone.

**Goliath had his shield bearer.**

**But David had the LORD.**

And just before David attacks, he says something really important:

**[SLIDE 17] 1 Samuel 17:45-47 - David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty ... This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands ... All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."**

Notice David's perspective:

**The battle is the LORD's.**

This is the whole point of the story.

David saw that the battle was over before it even started.

Because nobody stands a chance against the LORD.

**That's why I said earlier that David's not the underdog in this story.**

If anyone is the underdog, it's Goliath.

*He's* the grasshopper in God's eyes.

That's how David saw it.

And that's what we're supposed to see in this story.

It's not about *my* battle.

Or slaying *my* giants.

**It's about the LORD...**

**And whether or not we'll trust Him enough to see what's actually true.**

When David stood a stones throw away from Goliath,  
he didn't look at his appearance...

In fact, before David ever saw Goliath,  
he heard him mocking the LORD.

**That mocking exposed fear in the hearts of Saul and his army...  
But it also revealed David's steadfast trust in the LORD.**

**Saul and his men fell back in fear.  
But David pressed on.**

David's heart was aligned with the LORD's.

That's why he wasn't impressed with Goliath's size and weapons.  
—They were nothing compared to the God he trusted.

Look at verse 45...

**[SLIDE 18] 1 Samuel 17:45 - David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." [Hebrew = mocked]**

After this, Goliath moved closer to attack him.

At the same time, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

And reaching into his bag... David took out a stone... slung it toward Goliath...  
And struck him in the forehead. Goliath fell facedown on the ground.

**So what are we supposed to see in all of this?**

**If the story of David and Goliath isn't about facing our giants,  
then what is it about?**

It all goes back to what the LORD said in 1 Samuel 16:7...

**[SLIDE 19] 1 Samuel 16:7 - The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**

Goliath saw the Israelites and mocked them (17:10)

The Israelites saw Goliath were terrified (17:11)

Eliab looked at David's heart and said he was wicked (17:28)

Saul looked at David and said "you're not able" (17:33)

But David saw things differently.

He saw that the Battle was the LORD's — it was already won in his eyes.

This is why when the LORD looks at David, He sees a man after His own heart.

**So what are we supposed to see?**

**[SLIDE 20] If we want to be a people after God's own heart, then we need to start seeing everything through who God is.**

This is where the story hits home for us.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday.

It's when Jesus rode into Jerusalem while everybody was celebrating Him.

But while they were celebrating, Jesus wept...

Because they didn't recognize the time of God's coming.

The LORD was right there, and they didn't see Him for who He is.

Why?

Because their hearts were misaligned.

They were looking for a different kind of king...

They weren't seeing the situation through God's eyes.

**And so the question for us is this:  
Will we see God in our moments?  
Will we see our situations through His eyes?**

Because we've all got things that come up against us...

Fear.

Anxiety.

Situations that feel overwhelming.

But we're not abandoned on the battlefield.

The same LORD who was with David...

Now stands with us.

**This is why, in the New Testament, Paul says things like:**

"Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."<sup>2</sup>

"Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."<sup>3</sup>

"Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground."<sup>4</sup>

**Paul was basically saying:**

*Don't interpret life circumstances the way Saul did.*

Don't rely on what seems strong... or logical... or even what *feels* safe...

Instead... Clothe yourself in something different.

Clothe yourself in Christ.<sup>5</sup>

**Take off the things that the world says we should trust...**

**And put on Jesus.**

[...]

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<sup>2</sup> Romans 13:12

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 4:24

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 6:13

<sup>5</sup> Romans 13:14

But what does “putting on Jesus” look like?

Well... when we’re facing something overwhelming...

Don’t just pray, *“Lord, how do I get out of this?”*

Pray, *“Lord, how are You entering into this with me?”*

Fear doesn’t have to shape the way we see the world.

Because as the people of God, He invites us to bring it all to Him.

And when we do, we remember:

Who He is.

What He’s done.

And that He’s still with us.

**So this week...**

In whatever challenges we face, remember...

**[SLIDE 21] God moves His story forward as He shapes us to see through His heart.**

So let’s look at our moments through the One who is King of every moment.

Because nothing, and no one, compares to our God.

**Let’s Pray**