

Sermon followed by Service

1 Samuel 17

1 Samuel 17

Ever seen a Goliath? An enemy so giant ... a problem so giant ... it just stops people stuck. Ever heard a Goliath? "You're too small, too weak! Mess with me, I'll squash you! You don't have what it takes! And your God, he don't [sic] have what it takes either!"

Ever seen a Goliath ... heard a Goliath? The answer is "yes," isn't it? Your personal Goliath may be health - cancer, a heart problem, some other sickness. Your Goliath might be family troubles - troubles with the spouse, troubles with the children, troubles with the ex. Your Goliath might be money troubles, job troubles, or something else. You've seen your Goliaths, heard your Goliaths, haven't you? Our lesson can help.

But our lesson isn't just about the goliaths that we face in our personal lives. In our lesson Goliath was standing up against God's people to break God's people - so they couldn't do what God's people do - live in peace, grow strong together, live with God's blessing and take God's kingdom into the world. By standing up against God's people, Goliath was standing up against God's church. As a church we have our Goliaths, don't we? We have a whole world shouting against us - not just against what we teach, but shouting, or maybe worse, whispering, tempting - "Be true to yourself. You come first." As a church, we have our Goliaths - bills and budgets and building. As a church, we have our Goliaths - apathy, complacency. As a church, we have our Goliaths - and they aren't all evil, some are just overwhelming - long lists of people we want to see, long lists of projects that need to be done. It's not just out there where we face our

Goliaths; we can see our Goliaths, hear our Goliaths, right here - not so?

So how do you kill a Goliath? The people in our lesson didn't know, did they? They saw Goliath - nine feet tall; they heard Goliath - "you don't have what it takes!" And they were stuck - stuck in fear - stuck so all they could do was talk. Talk about how bad it was; talk about how great it would be if someone else took care of Goliath; talk - "he's too big": talk - "we can't do anything"; talk that whined and complained and tore each other down. The Israelites saw their Goliath; they heard their Goliath; But that's not all they saw and heard ... they saw each other; they heard each other ... and they were stuck.

But David was different. He knew how to make a difference. He knew how to kill a Goliath. How? **Use What God Has Given You!**

Back to the question - how was David different? In the eyes of his brother, in the eyes of King Saul, in the eyes of Goliath, David was just a boy compared to a giant; just a shepherd boy compared to a warrior giant. But David wasn't looking at himself - "I can do it." And David wasn't looking at Goliath - nine feet tall, 125 pounds of armor, carrying a spear with a point as heavy as a bowling ball. No, David was looking to the Lord Almighty! The LORD Almighty who had delivered his people out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, drowning his enemies. David had his eyes on the Lord Almighty who had brought his people into the Promised Land and cleared out their enemies before them. David was looking to the LORD who had rescued him from the lion and the bear, the LORD who had given him the courage and strength to kill the lion and the bear.

So how was David different? How could David go up against Goliath? First, David didn't just look to himself; and think and talk about how little he could do. Second, David didn't just stare at Goliath and think and talk about how big the enemy was. No, David looked to the LORD Almighty. So David thought different and he talked different. To King Saul he talked: **“The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”** And to Goliath he talked: **“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 ... This day the LORD will hand you over to me ... and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ... for the battle is the LORD's...!”**

Wow! So different from the other talk up and down the battle line. But it wasn't just talk. David followed through and put his talk into action. David didn't wait for God to make him bigger. He didn't wait for God to give him a bigger spear. King Saul thought David needed armor and helmet and spear, but David wasn't a soldier. So David used what God gave him and he put God to work. You know what he did. He picked five smooth stones from the stream; and when Goliath came in for the attack, David ran to meet Goliath. He took a stone, slung it with his sling; and what happened?

God gave him the victory! The stone struck Goliath in the forehead and dropped him. A boy against a giant; a shepherd boy against a warrior giant; a simple stone against an armored giant. It didn't make sense. No wonder Goliath boasted he would feed David to the birds. But the LORD Almighty took the faithful effort of that shepherd boy David and he took that stone and God gave Israel a victory that will stand forever.

David knew what to do in the face of a Goliath. For David it was simple - use what God gives you and put God to work.

What does that mean for us? Well, we have our Goliaths, don't we? Challenges that can seem every bit as daunting and impossible as Goliath. Challenges that seem every bit as loud as Goliath - "You're too small! You don't have what it takes!" And sometimes we get stuck like the Israelites. Stuck waiting for someone else. Stuck waiting for things to get easy. Stuck waiting for God to snap his fingers. Sometimes we call it procrastination. Sometimes we call it hopelessness. Sometimes it's just plain selfish laziness. But Goliath was wrong! And the Israelites sitting and stuck were wrong. And when we're stuck, we're wrong too. Not because we're bigger than our Goliaths, not because our Goliath challenges are small and easy. But, because we have the God of David!

We have that same great God as David! Think about it - we used to be as godless as Goliath - mouthing off and fighting against God and his people. There have been so many times we got stuck and quit on God. But instead of striking us down, instead of quitting on us, God has called us to his side like David. He's given us David's greater Lord. You know him as Jesus. Like David, Jesus stepped in and stepped up for us. But not just against a Goliath, Jesus stood up for us against Satan. Instead of just slinging a stone, Jesus stood in for us on the cross. There Jesus paid for the times we mouthed off against God. There he paid for the times we've been let ourselves get stuck. There he paid for the times we've talked others into being stuck instead of standing up with God. Now, with Jesus, God sees you like David, as a forgiven friend near and dear to his heart. But even more importantly, with Jesus, God sees you as Jesus, right for life with him. Not just right for life with him in heaven, but right to

be like David - to step up, to step in, to make God's difference in the world today.

You know some of the Goliaths you face, that your neighbors face, that we face here. And you probably know how easy it can be to be stuck like the Israelites. But you also know what David knew - that our God, the LORD Almighty is greater than an army of Goliaths. You know what God did through David - how he stood up and struck down Goliath. Even better, you know what God did through Jesus - his love, his care, his cross, the crown he has for you in heaven.

For the Goliaths we face today, God has given us so much more than stones. You have the very Word of God, with the power of God to heal hearts and save souls. You have the Spirit of God, with his power in you to love, to care, to help and serve, to make God's difference in the world. And you have the stuff of God, not just stones, but his money and stuff to do his work and work his blessing.

Like David, with the Lord, you have what it takes to make God's difference. Like David, you have what it takes to be God's blessing in the face of Goliath. Amen.

June 25 & 26, 2022

SERVICE OF THE WORD

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... what do we do when we hear boasts and shouts of evil? Do we cower on the sidelines? Or stand up with the Lord who puts evil in its place?

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see how David stood up to Goliath, even better, we see how Jesus stood up to deliver us from an evil darker and more dangerous than Goliath. And what do we do? We follow Jesus into victory!

OPENING HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Hymn 863

A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from ev'ry need that has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;
but for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
the almighty Lord, and there's no other God;
he holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
one little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;
he's by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
though all may be gone, our victory is won;
the kingdom's ours forever!

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

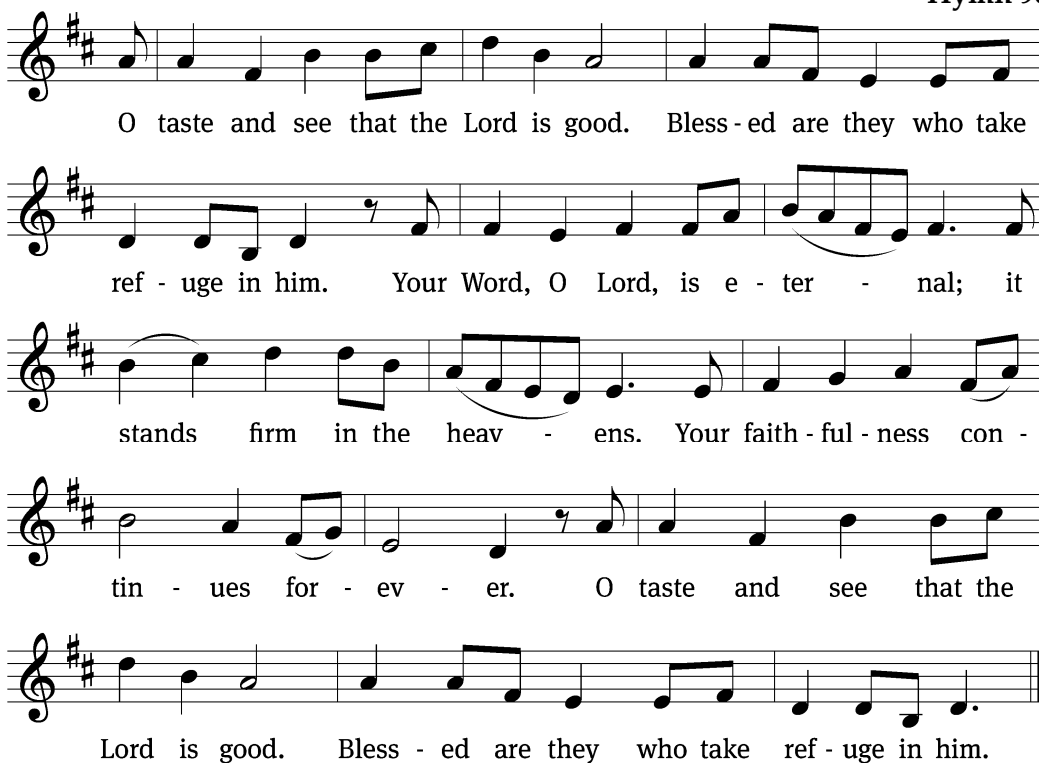
+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN

"O Taste and See"

Hymn 965



O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take
ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it
stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -
tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the
Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness, and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING*1 Samuel 17:4–11, 32–40, 45–52*

A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

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."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 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."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. 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.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them."

So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

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. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 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."

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 2D

Refrain



Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -



lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Tone



Why do the nations / conspire
 and the peoples / plot in vain?
 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- /
 gainst the LORD
 and against his A- / nointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;
 the Lord / scoffs at them.
 He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,
 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain." *Refrain*

I will proclaim the / LORD's decree:
 He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your / Father."
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
 as it was in the be- / ginning,
 is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND READING*Ephesians 6:10–17*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Ephesians 6:10*

Alleluia! Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Alleluia!

GOSPEL*John 15:1–8*

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Fight the Good Fight"

Hymn 876

Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up your eyes and seek his face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
his boundless mercy will provide.
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;
he changes not, and you are dear.
Only believe, and you will see
that Christ is Lord eternally.

SERMON

HYMN

"Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You"

Hymn 871

Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you,
for Satan has designed your fall. Wield God's Word, a weapon glorious;
against each foe you'll be victorious, for God will set you o'er them all.
Fear not the prince of hell, here is Immanuel!
Sing hosanna! The strong ones yield
to Christ, our shield, and we as conqu'rors hold the field.

Cast afar this world's vain pleasure and boldly strive for heav'nly treasure.
Be steadfast in the Savior's might. Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
for Jesus from all harm will hide you. By faith you'll conquer in the fight.
Take courage, weary soul! Look forward to the goal!
Joy awaits you. The race, then, run;
your battle done, the crown of glory will be won.

Jesus, all your children cherish, and keep them that they never perish
whom you have purchased with your blood. Let new life to us be given
that we may look to you in heaven whenever fearful is our mood.
Your Spirit on us pour that we may love you more,
hearts o'erflowing; and then shall we,
from sin set free, sing praise through all eternity.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that
you give us day after day.

C: **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect
us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this
place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom,
and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger:
sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over
those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever
perils may threaten them.

C: **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are
distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep
our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of
good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of
peace, security, and well-being.

C: **Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may
there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is
poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and
restore.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” Hymn 872

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.
From vict’ry unto vict’ry his army shall he lead
till ev’ry foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day.
Ye that are brave, now serve him against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle, the next, the victor’s song.
To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

OFFERING

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code with
your mobile device.*



Acknowledgements: *Texts and music covered under OneLicense.net #A-712373 and CCLI Copyright License 11194382, CCLI Streaming License CSPL059933 Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Service of the Word O Taste and See Tune: © 2006 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House Psalm 2D Music: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House O Church, Arise Text: © Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com*