

Giant Lessons

1 Samuel 17

The story of David and Goliath is so compelling and well-known it has become the “primary historical metaphor in Western culture for describing any individual or group who overcomes seemingly insurmountable odds to defeat an oppressor.” However, it is not primarily a story about human courage and effort. Instead, it is about the awesome power of a life built around bold faith in the Lord. It “demonstrates the power of a single faith-filled life to inspire an entire army to victory and the vulnerability of all who ‘defy the armies of the living God’ when confronted by individuals who possess courageous faith in the Lord.”

❖ Outline

The Philistine Challenge (1-11)

David comes to the battlefield (12-30)

David prepares for battle (31-40)

The Victory (41-54)

Epilogue (55-58)

❖ Giant Lessons

1. This battle was unnecessary. It should have been resolved much earlier (1 Samuel 14).
2. Both fear (11, 24) and faith (52) are contagious. Be selective who you listen to.
3. A giant’s chief weapon is intimidation (1-11).
4. If you tolerate a giant, he will take more and more of your territory (25).
5. Others may criticize you for tackling a giant (28) or tell you “it can’t be done” (33).
6. God uses little tests to prepare us for bigger battles (34-37).
7. Keep the giant in perspective (36-37).
8. Don’t rely on other’s weapons. Use ones you have confidence in (38-40).
9. Keep your focus on God, not the giant (41-47).
10. When God is on your side, you are never outnumbered (45).
11. Deal with giants decisively (48-51).