

When Fear Eclipses Faith?

1 Samuel 17

“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

God isn't enamored with externals. He values hearts.

When we don't see things as God does...

...we fear what God wants us to fight.

Israel: Cowered and ran in fear.

...we pick the wrong battles.

Eliab: We oppose those who desire to be on mission.

Eliab was attacking his brother rather than Goliath.

“We need to choose our battles wisely. If you don't watch it, all of your battles will be fought among fellow members of the family of God. Meanwhile, the real enemy of our souls roams around our territory winning victory after victory.” (Chuck Swindoll)

...we underestimate God's work through others.

Saul: We doubt what God can do in others.

What did David see?

“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.” (Hebrews 11:32-34)

David saw God as living and powerful.

“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (1 Samuel 17:26)

“This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them [lion and bear] 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.” (1 Samuel 17:36-37)

“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.’” (1 Samuel 17:45-46)

David saw God's promises as unstoppable.

"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." (1 Samuel 17:47)

"The Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord." (Genesis 12:7)

"Then the Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him [David]; this is the one.' So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David." (1 Samuel 16:12-13)

David saw reminders of God's faithfulness. (v. 54)

"David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent." (v. 54)

Don't forget God's victories!