

# **“David Rocked Goliath”**

## **Sermon Reflection Questions September 13, 2009**

### **1 Samuel 17:41-49, Unlocking the Old Testament**

One of the most famous Old Testament stories is that of David and Goliath. I can remember having countless Sunday school lessons on the subject and have preached on it several times. While the story is certainly true, it also serves as an analogy for us when we are faced with enormous challenges and obstacles.

1. While the primary text for this message is the story of David and Goliath, we must also take into account the story which precedes it which was David’s calling and anointing as the future King of Israel.

a. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What do you notice about David being called as king? How did it differ from what the people expected?

b. In verse 6 when Samuel is about to anoint David’s older brother Eliab, God says, “Pay no attention to his appearance or his stature, for I have rejected him. For not as man sees (does the Lord see); man sees only what is visible, but the Lord sees into the heart.” What are the implications of this passage for our lives and ministry? How does this story inform our understanding of who God can use for His purposes?

c. David was initially overlooked by his father and by Samuel because he was too young and small. Have you ever been overlooked or have you overlooked someone else for something because they didn’t fit a certain criteria or outward appearance?

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-51

2. There were multiple reasons why any of the Israelites would be afraid to take on Goliath. For example, Goliath was large and a lot was at stake for the person who went up against him.

a. From the message on Sunday I gave some idea of how big Goliath might have been; what do you remember that indicated how large Goliath was?

b. There was also a lot at stake for whoever fought Goliath (verse 8-9). What was at stake in this battle?

3. It is interesting that David, who was probably about 13 years old, was really surprised by the people’s lack of courage. What is David’s rationale for why he (or others) could have victory (see verses 31-37)?

4. Some will say, and I tend to agree, that Saul's armor that David tried to wear (verses 38-39) also has symbolic significance. What could be the symbolic significance of the armor that Saul is trying to put on David? (See also Isaiah 52:12, 58:8)

5. I mentioned in the message that Goliath can be viewed as symbolic for a couple of things. First, he can be symbolic for the challenges that come our way that we have no initial control over. Examples would be sickness, loss of a job, or other tragedies. Second, he can also be symbolic for the obstacles that stand in the way of the opportunities we have for the Lord. Examples could be our fear in speaking to someone about the Lord or the logistical obstacles that come in the way of fulfilling a ministry.

a. Where in your own life have you faced Goliath's?

b. Did you use the Lord's help?

c. What Goliath's are you facing now in terms of challenges? How might this story help you?

d. What Goliath's are you facing in terms of obstacles to challenges? How might this story help you?