

How Faith can Beat the Odds

1 Samuel 17: Great story about a young man that had to BEAT THE ODDS... overcome something Bigger than himself.

1 Samuel 17:20-37 NLT

20 So David left the sheep with another shepherd and set out early the next morning with the gifts. He arrived at the outskirts of the camp just as the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. 21 Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, he saw Goliath, the champion from Gath, come out from the Philistine ranks, shouting his challenge to the army of Israel.

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. 25 "Have you seen the giant?" the men were asking. "He comes out each day to challenge Israel. And have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him? The king will give him one of his daughters for a wife, and his whole family will be exempted from paying taxes!"

26 David talked to some others standing there to verify the report. "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and putting an end to his abuse of Israel?" he asked them. "Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" 27 And David received the same reply as before: "What you have been hearing is true. That is the reward for killing the giant."

28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and dishonesty. You just want to see the battle!"

29 "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!" 30 He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer. 31 Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

32 "Don't worry about a thing," David told Saul. "I'll go fight this Philistine!"

33 "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!"

34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!"

3 Phases of Faith David used to conquer the impossible:

1 He **Replayed** Yesterday's Victories: Vs 34

- This is the Power of a Sanctified Memory... **MEMORIAL DAY!**
- Most people replay yesterday's distress, disasters and defeat
- **Whatever you Replay in your Mind you will Relive in your Future**

- Every time you remember yesterday's failures satan will attempt to superimpose those failures on new relationships, new job opportunities, new career paths.
- Some of you got away from yesterday's failures but you let the enemy pack your bags before you left!

YOU WALKED AWAY FROM THE PAIN OF YESTERDAY
BUT YOU LET THE DEVIL PACK YOUR BAGS!!!

You got out of a bad relationship because it was a dreadful experience, but you are still resentful at the mere mention of their name. (You let the devil pack your bags)

You finally got out of financial debt, but you still can't control the desire to spend on frivolous unnecessary things. (You let the devil pack your bags)

You got out of a bad habit or addiction, but you find yourself lingering longer still long to try it just one more time.
(You let the devil pack your bags)

You said, I forgive you, but you can't seem to forget and have peace with that person.
(You let the devil pack your bags)

You were fired unfairly and you walked away trusting God to provide, but you're still trying to sabotage your boss and the company after you've left.
(You let the devil pack your bags)

You cut off the affair with that married man/woman, but you still lust after him/her.
(You let the devil pack your bags)

You broke off your relationship with that hurtful, abusive person, but you are suspicious and distrusting of every new person you meet.
(You let the devil pack your bags)

You poured your heart and life into a church, only to be misunderstood and rejected; now you look at every pastor and church through that lens of rejection. Your gifts and talents lie dormant and people are suffering the loss of the amazing love that your are withholding. (You let the Devil Pack Your Bags)

You decided to let go of the past hurts from growing up in a dysfunctional family environment yet you believe you are unworthy of love from others and you refuse to get attached to anyone.
(You let the devil pack your bags)

WHEN YOU WALK AWAY FROM A PAINFUL YESTERDAY;
DON'T LET THE DEVIL PACK YOUR BAGS!!!

- To Replay the Pain of your past is to trash today's opportunities with yesterday's failures.
- IF you have no past victories look where VICTORY began for David.
- In Worship. In a place of Insignificance. It was a Sheep field of obedience.
 - Sheep fields of Obedience will always lead to Battle fields of Significance

2 He Downplayed the Opposition (Goliath):

- Some call it SMACK TALK...
- With David it was the Power of Positional Authority

1 Samuel 17:26 NKJV

Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For **who is this uncircumcised Philistine**, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

- David spoke from the posture of His Covenant Relationship with God
- David did not approach this enemy based on size but based on RELATIONSHIPS.
- Uncircumcised = Not a reference to anatomical observation! w/o Covenant
- This is not a battle between me and him; it's a battle between his god and my GOD!
- We were in our own sight as grasshoppers. Numbers 13
- Don't tell God how Big Your Giant is; Tell the Giant how BIG YOUR GOD IS!
- Don't talk about your weaknesses in the presence of anyone that you wouldn't trust your life with.
- Never use words that would encourage your enemy
- Refuse to use your tongue as a sword against yourself
- Boldly declare the confusion & dysfunction that resides on the plans of your enemy.

3 He Pre-played future victory. Vs. 46

- This is FAITH... The Substance of THINGS HOPED for!
- The Power of a Sanctified Imagination
- How do you speak about your future?

1 Samuel 17:37 The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear **will save me from this Philistine!**"

- We're instructed in Word to "Cast Down Imaginations" that would exalt themselves against, or above the Knowledge of God
- How do you cast down a Bad Image in you? With a GOD IMAGE IN YOU!

1 Samuel 17:45-46

David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty — the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!

- What happens in your mind will happen in time
- Disconnect from the assassins of your faith
- Joshua 1: See... I have given you this city
- Don't be afraid to announce the demise of darkness in your life
- Feed your faith and starve your doubts
- Speak your faith not your fears
- Call those things that be not as though they were: Romans 4:17
- **DECLARE A THING...**

If you get this far in your faith there better be some corresponding action!

- What you have not overcome in your past remains to plague you in your present and will always frustrate your future.
- The inner demons that defy you today will continue to delay your destiny until you take their heads off