

Delivered  
July 24, 2016  
Allen Power

1 Samuel 17:32-37,42-50 (David and Goliath)

**Opening: When you see a famous landmark for the first time, how do you typically react to its size? When you go back to a place of your childhood as an adult what occurs to you about the size of the place?**

- It's all about having the right perspective. If your only exposure to the Grand Canyon was a picture you might not think much of it. When you stand and look at it in person...different story!
- At a distance a California Redwood just looks like a tall tree. Standing next to a Sequoia you realize they can grow to about 30 feet in diameter and more than 250 feet tall.
- At a distance an Air Force cargo plane looks like another plane. Up close it looks like a hangar where you keep planes! The C5 Galaxy has a payload capacity of 118 tons. It can carry two Abrams battle tanks, or 7-10 8x8 armored vehicles.
- The closer I am to the Grand Canyon, a California redwood, or the C5, the more I understand how massive they are!

The point: The closer you get to something big, the more you realize how massive it really is. This applies to our view of God and His power and majesty. We need to view His power in contrast to our problems. (Spinal Tap effect.)

A.W. Tozer famously wrote: *"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."*<sup>1</sup>

The big idea: When you serve a GIGANTIC God you don't have to be big and tough; just FAITHFUL and FAITH-FILLED. Young David believed this!

- David was just a boy when God instructed Samuel to anoint him as the future king of Israel. David spent his teen years growing into the job.

- He grew in strength, responsibility, and faith as he continued to tend and protect his father's sheep.
- God used David's musical ability to bring him into the courts of King Saul as his playing calmed down the tortured King. Eventually young David became one of Saul's armor bearers. It was a part-time job as he went back and forth between the palace and the sheep fields. By now we think he was in his late teens.
- Israel was in constant conflict with the Philistines. This account finds both armies arrayed on two hills facing each other with a valley in between.
- It was a classic stalemate. Each side wanted the other to move first because the army who attacked first would be at a disadvantage since they had to run down into the valley.
- One of the techniques of warfare in that day was to propose that two "champions" fight it out to the death. The army whose champion survived won; the other army became their slaves.
- The Philistines put forth their "freak of nature" giant champion, Goliath. He was big (9 foot 9), mean, and pagan. You know the story. No one in Israel's army had the courage to fight him. Even King Saul, a great warrior was afraid. This went on for 40 days and nights.
- Young David showed up delivering food to his brothers. When he heard Goliath taunting the army of Israel, David became incensed.
- In verse 26, David said: *"Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"*<sup>2</sup>
- This wasn't just loyalty to his nation. David had such a heart for God he was offended on God's behalf. By the way, one problem in our world today is that God's people don't get very offended on God's behalf! We tend to think God can take care of Himself I'll just keep my mouth shut. Not David!

1 Samuel 17:32–37 (NLT)

*David Kills Goliath*

<sup>32</sup> "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

<sup>33</sup> "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth."

<sup>34</sup> But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. <sup>36</sup> 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! <sup>37</sup> The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!” Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!”

- David was pretty sure of himself; **youthful overconfidence or reasoned experience? How did David come to his courageous conclusion?**
- **What promises of God was David relying on? Why was he so confident in those promises?**
- David knew: When you serve a GIGANTIC God you don’t have to be big and tough; just FAITHFUL and FAITH-FILLED.
- **How can we apply David’s experience with lions and bears to our lives today? What “lions and bears” prepare us to face giants?**
- When we remember how God has come through for us over and over in the past, it gives us CONFIDENCE in Him to handle today’s problems.
- By the way, “giants” and “heroes” come in various sizes. This isn’t a story for “other people” who are called to do BIG things. It’s for all of us!
- You know the outcome. Most of us know the “flannel graph” version.

1 Samuel 17:42–50 (NLT) Goliath reacts to David:

<sup>42</sup> sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. <sup>43</sup> “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. <sup>44</sup> “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

<sup>45</sup> David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

<sup>46</sup> 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! <sup>47</sup> And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

<sup>48</sup> As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

<sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.

- We always see this passage as a reminder that God will give us courage and fight our battles for us. That's correct. However, look at the end of verse 46. **Why was David REALLY fighting this battle?**
- When God brings us through tough things it's not just for our good, it's for His glory. The glory He deserves! David knew who was really fighting this battle. He said it in verse 47: *"This is the Lord's battle..."*
- Important to note: God provided the victory and David did his part. That's how God uses us today. We can't say: *"God you'll have to win this one because I never took the time to practice using my slingshot!"*
- David was faithful to do what he could do and faith-filled to know God would do what only He could do.
- I believe David's slingshot can be a metaphor for our faith. He had five smooth stones, but without his slingshot they wouldn't have done the job.
- For us, we have the smooth stones of God's power and promises, but we can't launch them at our problems unless we use the slingshot of our faith.
- **How can we become good at using our "slingshot of faith?"**
- Let's review some things we've learned: **What has God promised us for our battles in life? How can past trials build future courage? How can we keep God in proper perspective versus our problems?**

So, What's the Takeaway?

I want us to leave here with our own five “smooth stones” and a slingshot to use when we need God to fight a battle bigger than we are. [Verses at end of notes]

- Smooth stone #1 – The PROMISE of God’s POWER (Psalm 28:7)
- Smooth stone #2 - The PROMISE of God’s PRESENCE (Deut. 31:8;)
- Smooth stone #3 – The PERFORMANCE of God in the PAST -- in other words, His faithfulness to us. (Num. 23:19; Heb. 10:23)
- Smooth stone #4 – The PERSPECTIVE of God’s POSITION (Is. 40:26; Ps. 46:10) The closer you get to something big, the more you realize how massive it really is. This applies to our view of God and His power and majesty. We need to view His power in contrast to our problems.
- Smooth stone #5 – Our PERSISTENCE in God’s PLAN. We need to keep doing what He’s told us to do. (Gal. 6:9; James 1:12)
- To “fire” these smooth stones we need to practice using our “slingshot of faith.” (Heb. 11:6)
- Will you claim these promises this week? Will you practice having faith?
- God sends “bears and lions” into our lives to prepare us for the giants.
- Remember: When you serve a GIGANTIC God you don’t have to be big and tough; just FAITHFUL and FAITH-FILLED.

Verses from above:

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

Psalms 28:7 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him with all my heart.  
He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.  
I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

Numbers 23:19 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup> God is not a man, so he does not lie.

He is not human, so he does not change his mind.  
Has he ever spoken and failed to act?  
Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

Isaiah 40:26 (NLT)

<sup>26</sup> Look up into the heavens.

Who created all the stars?

He brings them out like an army, one after another,  
calling each by its name.

Because of his great power and incomparable strength,  
not a single one is missing.

Psalms 46:10 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God!

I will be honored by every nation.

I will be honored throughout the world."

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

James 1:12 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation.

Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

<sup>1</sup> The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer. Published 1978 by Harper & Row

<sup>2</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (1 Sa 17:26). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.