

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 10



DAVID SLAYS GOLIATH

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 17:28-51

David was a shepherd; so was Jesus in the spiritual sense. David was trained for his work by much trial and painful tribulation; so was Jesus. Let us, therefore, approach today's lesson with the realization that the scenes we examine turn our eyes and minds to later centuries when a King greater than David appeared among men.

An understanding of David's character is not complete unless we recall the circumstances under which he fought and defeated the Philistine giant, Goliath. This giant bully strutted before his army day after day and challenged the Israelite army to send a man to engage in personal combat. From Saul to the bravest of soldiers, the Israelites were terrified by his intimidation. This man was defying not only Saul's army but the God of Israel.

Casting aside the armor and heavy sword with which Saul equipped him; he chose, instead, a stone taken from the brook and a sling, in the use of which he had become very accurate. When we transfer this contest over into the realm of spiritual

things, we learn lessons which should bring confidence to our own spiritual lives.

MEMORY VERSE: *In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.*

—*Psalms 56:11*

Look to God Alone

1 Samuel 17:28-37 And Eliab his eldest brother heard ... anger was kindled against David ... The monster of jealousy had begun its destructive work upon David's brethren. Eliab wanted victory over the giant, but not at any cost. He had witnessed the anointing of David ahead of himself and did not care to see him succeed any further. **I know thy pride ...** A false accusation and evil surmising to cover over his own heart's wickedness. **Is there not a cause?** Yes, there is always but one cause for action of this kind; that cause is a sinful heart. **He turned from him toward another ... answered him again after the formal manner.** His family, first, and then all the others were against his move. Even the king said, **Thou art not able ... to fight with him.** Through all the discouraging action of the people around him, David's faith in God did not waver. Why? Because he was prepared beforehand. David remembered when, by the power of God, he **slew both the lion and the bear**, and was confident that this Philistine would **be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.** This is the cause of our battle in our day.

David Arms for Battle

1 Samuel 17:38-40 On opposite mountains the armies of Israel and the Philistines faced each other. For forty days the Philistine giant, Goliath, had held Saul's army in fear as he defied them to send a man to fight with him to determine which nation should serve the other. David was not a soldier but a visitor to the camp. He was young, untrained, and much smaller than Goliath. Yet he volunteered to fight him, trusting the Lord to deliver. David could not use the strange armor furnished him by Saul, so he took only his familiar staff, sling, and five smooth stones. Only? No, he carried an unseen weapon.

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David would not use Saul's unproven method. He used his own weapons. Is not each of us different, the place we serve, ours alone? The same Spirit working in all works individually in each (**1 Corinthians 12:4-6**). Should we wish for another's place? Imitate another's method? We learn here about contentment in a small place, about diligence in our task, about where to look for leading and strength.

Goliath's Challenge to David

1 Samuel 17:41-44 It was a very unequal contest. Goliath could see that, and he felt insulted that Israel had sent an unarmed boy who did not even recognize or seem to fear the great power of his foe. He cursed **David by his gods** – all the gods he knew. He boasted, **Come ... I will give thy flesh ...**

David's Answer

1 Samuel 17:45-47 David, too, could see it was a very unequal contest. This heathen Philistine with only size, muscle, a sword, a spear and a shield, had behind him only unhearing, unseeing, powerless idols. David named his dependence – **I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts**. Then – **whom thou has defied**. In this message David gave a mighty pull on his cord of faith and drew his God face-to-face with the gods of the Philistines. Then he hid behind Him – **This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand**. God never turns down confidence like that.

David looked to the honor of God – **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel**. He regarded not the strength of his arms or the foe's arms. Why? God does not need them. **The Lord saveth not with sword and spear**. Read about the tools of our warfare in this Gospel Day in **Ephesians 6:11-18**.

The Victory

1 Samuel 17:48-51 David waited until Goliath began the battle. Then he ran toward him, not from him. The stone from his sling went straight to the unshielded forehead of Goliath, dropping him, stunned, to the ground. With Goliath's own sword, David completed the winning effort. Seeing this, the Israelite army rallied and pressed the victory to completion.

For every result there is a cause. A number of things brought about this victory. 1. David regarded God's honor first – **Who is this man?** 2. He assumed responsibility, readied himself to go into action – **I will go and fight**. 3. His faith was in God – **He will deliver me**. 4. He provided no escape route. Dependence was solely upon God. 5. He openly owned and declared to the enemy **the name of the Lord of hosts**. 6. He waited on God without frantic haste – **When the Philistine arose, and ... drew nigh ... David ... ran ... to meet him**. The stone flew true to its target, but not by David's skill alone. This look at David can give us help for our problems. These same factors that made up David's success are necessary to us. The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but to the true and faithful and to the true God. Why did the Holy Spirit record this in the Bible? Read **1 Corinthians 10:11**.

JUST A THOUGHT

**“When the going seems easier,
check to see if you are going downhill.”**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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