

The Battle Belongs to the LORD

1 Samuel 17:31–47

I. Intro

- A. Week 1: The enemy
- B. Week 2: The unlikely hero (underdog, called, challenged)
- C. Today: The battle lines are drawn. How does David expect to win?
- D. How do you fight your battles? Panic, worry, manipulation, ignorance is bliss

II. *[31] When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. [32] And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." [33] And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth."*

- A. David's confidence and faith catch Saul's attention.
- B. David's statement, "Let no man's heart fail," underscores his faith in God.
- C. Saul's response is a realistic assessment = **David cannot win this fight.**
- D. If David fights this battle, he will lose.
- E. Sometimes, we need that dose of reality to remind us who we are. It isn't until we get that gut check that we can step back and think properly (e.g. the diagnosis, the breakdown, the failure, the need to be humbled occasionally)

III. *[34] But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, [35] I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. [36] Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine [another beast] shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." [37] And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"*

- A. David starts retelling his exploits, and let's be honest - David is kind of a Chad
 - 1. Grabbing a bear by its beard?! I didn't even know bears had beards
 - 2. Grabbing a lion and then clubbing it? That's Rambo status
- B. We would be wrong, however, to think David is bragging
 - 1. He's not talking about his strength or his skill
 - 2. He is highlighting God's deliverance! Giving HIM the credit that is due.
 - 3. This is what giving glory to God means, by the way! (Worship, Praise)
- C. He is saying, "The Lord delivered me from that stuff and those beasts were just after a lamb from my flock. How much more will God, the SHEPHERD, stand up and fight when this uncircumcised pagan is after YHWH's Sheep?!"
- D. Let's recount: David cannot win this fight... but guess what?
 - 1. **David isn't the one fighting. God is.**
- E. How does David have such confidence in what God is going to do? Three things.
 - 1. He knows the CHARACTER of GOD.

2. He has recounted the past FAITHFULNESS of God throughout his life
 3. He remembers the future PROMISES of God (anointing)
 - a) The promises haven't come true yet
 - b) Therefore, as Isaac said, David is invincible until it's his time
- F. You need to remember this b/c those three things are the same things you need to draw upon for your confidence in this battle of life

1. Know God's Character → Who is God?

2. Recall God's Past Faithfulness → What has God done?

3. Remember God's Future Promises → What has God promised to do

G. Faith, then, is trusting in the answers to those three questions

IV. *[38] Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, [39] and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off. [40] Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.*

- A. Saul tries to equip David in his armor → this is the world's wisdom.
- B. Think about how crazy this is: It's not his equipment, he has no training, and you already told the guy he can't win. He can't even move. He's tripping everywhere.
 1. Dress me up as a center for the Eagles, and I am still getting crunched
- C. Instead, David goes to battle in his shepherd's garb (staff, stone, sling, pouch)
- D. But what's really going on here?
 1. Saul's armor and weapons symbolize human methods and means
 2. But that's not how God works.
- E. If God is going to be the one who fights this battle, does it really matter if he's wearing Saul's chainmail or his own leather tunic?
 1. Either God is gonna fight the battle, or he won't
 2. And if he won't, a sword vs. a spear won't matter at all
 3. And if he will, a rock or a bazooka → either will work
 - a) He fights with thunder, with angels, with hail from heaven
 - b) He's God. He will do what he wants when he wants.
 4. David remembers WHO God is and WHAT he's done, so he has confidence in what comes NEXT
- F. How does God win? *Zech 4:6, It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.*
- G. How do you win your battles? Let God fight them for you. Call to the Commander and Chief for aid.
 1. You need Jesus as your champion → the warrior who fights for you
 2. Your good works can't win that fight for your soul
 3. Your impressive credentials can't win the fight for your soul
 4. Spiritual battles require spiritual weapons
- H. God has to fight the battle for David and for you.
- I. Having faith, faith that saves your soul, is to trust in:
 1. Who Jesus says he is

2. What he has done
3. What he promises to do

V. *[41] And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. [42] And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. [43] And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. [44] The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."*

- A. Goliath isn't laughing. He's offended.
- B. Goliath is ready to fight. "You come at me?!" || "I will give your flesh..."
- C. There's only one problem: David isn't coming at him with any weapon forged by human hands.
- D. And if God wanted to use a stick to kill Goliath, it would work just fine

VI. *[45] Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47] and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."*

- A. David essentially says, "You are coming with sword and shield, but I am coming w/ the ultimate weapon of mass destruction → the one who can unmake worlds. You've been out here mocking YHWH, the God who made the world. He commands angelic armies, that you can't even see, and you think you're gonna get away without a scratch? Don't you remember Gath and the tumors? Don't you remember all the times God has beaten your people to a pulp?"
- B. David isn't gonna fight. David is there as a conduit, assuming that GOD will fight.
 1. The LORD will deliver Goliath into his hands
 2. And then David will just chop his head off after the LORD is done
- C. And then, everyone will do what? Cheer for David? No. They will give glory and credit to God because all will know David didn't win this battle. The Lord did.
 1. God's power transcends human weaponry.
- D. Guys, God loves operating in situations where nobody can steal his glory
 1. He loves using weak things to shame the strong
 2. He loves nobodies, unexpected underdogs, and the other guys
 3. He likes it when there are impossible situations and improbable means
 4. He loves getting the glory b/c he deserves it anyway
- E. Goliath is about to learn the hard way that he isn't fighting David at all; he's about to fight the one who knit him together in his poor mother's womb.
- F. This is true in David's life. It's true in my life. It's true in your life.

VII. APPLICATION → Like we've said every week → this is all pointing to Jesus

1. He fights on your behalf. He fights your battle. He defeated sin and death.
2. You can't do it. He has to do it. Only he can do it.

3. That's your ultimate application from this sermon
 - a) Believe that Jesus is who he says he is
 - b) Believe that he did what he said he did
 - c) Believe that he will do what he said he will do
- B. But I also want to highlight this verse: *all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's*
 1. The LORD doesn't fight like the world expects...
 2. The LORD is sovereign over the outcome...
 3. He likes to win in such a way where ALL THE ASSEMBLY knows that HE is the victor
- C. Surely there is SOMETHING going on in your life (or about to) that feels like a trial by combat. It might be small; it might be big. **What is it? Think it through**
- D. As trials come our way (minor or severe), what do you do? How do you win?
- E. It all comes down to TRUTH and FAITH
 1. Truth to see GOD'S CHARACTER and the faith to believe it
 - a) List, Read the Bible (Who is God), Life circumstances, Theology
 2. Truth to see GOD'S FAITHFULNESS in the past and faith to remember it
 - a) Read the Bible (What has God done), Journal, Cross
 3. Truth to know GOD'S PROMISES and faith to believe them
 - a) Read the Bible (What has God promised), remind yourself, remember what is true
- F. In Ephesians 6, the Bible unpacks what we call spiritual warfare → essentially the unseen battle between good and evil, and if you take the time to unpack it what you realize is it comes down to God's people PRAYING with FAITH by TRUTH
 1. We PRAY to God, by FAITH, based on what is TRUE
 2. That's what David did:
 - a) He knew who God was, what God had done, and what God had promised → you better believe he was praying as he walked to that streambed
 3. That's what we do to be saved from our sins:
 - a) We know who Jesus is, why he came, what he accomplished on the cross, what he is coming back to do → we place our trust in those truths
 4. Faith and truth is how we let the LORD fight our battles today
 - a) "Lord, I have this issue"
 - (1) Character: Good Father, plans for me, loves me
 - b) "Lord, how can this possible work out"
 - (1) Don't you remember what I've done?
 - c) "Lord, the future looks so bleak"
 - (1) There are promises yet to be fulfilled... trust me
- G. The Bible says that we do not fight against flesh and blood, but we need to remember all times that The battle is the LORD's → trust in him!