

Jealous for God's Honor

1 Samuel 17:1-54 - NCBC, March 27, 2022

Main Point: God delivers us from enemies through humble dependence so that He receives the honor.

Three keys to living humbly dependent upon God so that you will jealously honor Him:

- I. Look through the eyes of faith (vv. 1-27)
 - a. Look beyond outward appearances (vv. 1-11)
 - b. Look through God's perspective (vv. 12-27)

Application: Replace man-centered thinking with God-centered thinking

- II. Embrace a high view of God (vv. 28-40)
 - a. Lay down your pride (vv. 28-33)
 - b. Lay hold of God's power (vv. 34-40)

Application: Meditate upon God's promises and character to prevent spiritual amnesia

- III. Obey the commands of God (vv. 41-54)
 - a. Fight with God's strength (vv. 41-54)

Application: Prioritize God's honor in everything you do

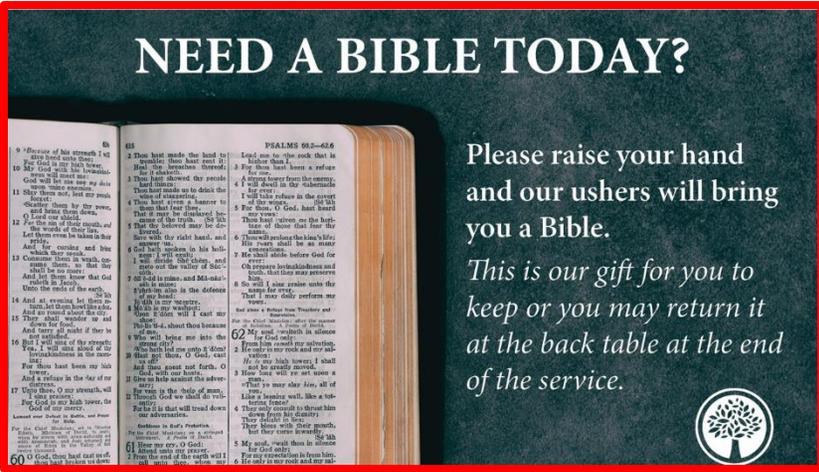
I. SBTS

Before I begin, I would just like to speak on behalf of my family and say that we are so thankful to be here at New Castle. It's only been 9 months since we moved here from Kansas, but it already feels like home because you have loved on us so much. So "thank you." We praise God for it all and we dearly love you all.

[SERIES TITLE SLIDE]



This morning we are continuing our preaching series *More Than a Children's Story* by turning to the book of 1 Samuel. This series is meant to help us rediscover wonderful truth from God's Word that can often be missed because of familiarity. The story of David and Goliath is perhaps one of the most familiar, or at least most alluded to, of all Bible stories.



[NEED A BIBLE SLIDE]

Please open your Bibles to 1 Samuel 17. If you do not have a Bible with you, we'd love to give you a Bible. Simply raise your hand as the ushers come by and they would be happy to give you one. You'll greatly benefit from following along with an open copy.

On its face, the account of David's victory over Goliath (spoiler alert) is the first credential given to David that he was anointed by God, through the prophet Samuel, to be the rightful king of Israel.

In just a moment we are going to read verses 1-11. We won't have time to read all 58 verses, you'll have to do that later on your own, but thankfully the story is already very familiar.

[SERIES TITLE SLIDE]



So if you're able, please stand in honor of the reading of God's Word, as I read from the ESV translation, starting with verse 1:

“1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. 4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 And he had bronze

armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. 8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."

This is the reading of God's Word. You may be seated. Let's Pray.

II. Introduction

We know how this story ends – against all odds, a young man with no military experience defeats a professional soldier in combat. David and Goliath is the original “underdog” story. We love these types of stories – Rocky Balboa boxing against Apollo Creed or two little hobbits facing the armies of Mordor in *Lord of the Rings*. Every year we get excited to see a modern day “David and Goliath” during March Madness when a little college

basketball team like St. Peters knocks out the dominant Kentucky and Purdue teams.

These are stories of courage and self-reliance in the face of great adversity where the underdog receives personal fame and glory. **But David's story is different – it's the story of faith and humble dependence in the face of great adversity for God's fame and glory.**

[MAIN POINT SLIDE]

Main point

God delivers us from enemies through humble dependence so that He receives the honor.



Here is the main point of 1 Samuel 17: “God delivers us from enemies through humble dependence so that He receives the honor.”

Throughout this chapter we are going to see David's humble dependence contrasted against Saul's self-reliance.¹

So often we are tempted to be self-reliant in the midst of difficult circumstances. It is very easy for us to become self-focused rather than God-focused.

As we survey chapter 17, we will see **three keys to living humbly dependent upon God so that you will jealously honor Him.**

[SLIDE]

Look through the eyes of faith (vv. 1-27)



III. Look through the eyes of faith (vv. 1-27)

The first key to living humbly dependent is to look through the eyes of faith. This means we interpret the world and our problems through a biblical world view.

¹ Romans 15:4
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We trust what God's Word has to say about our situation despite what we see and how we feel.

[SLIDE]

Look through the eyes of faith (vv. 1-27)

- Look beyond outward appearances (vv. 1-11)



When you allow God's Word to inform your outlook you will look beyond outward appearances.

Israel was fixated on the outward appearance of the enemy. The Philistines were a continual "thorn-in-the-flesh" and now they had encroached on Israel's territory looking for a fight. But instead of an all-out battle, the Philistines sent out their champion to challenge a single Israelite to one-on-one combat. Winner-takes-all.

As you all know, Goliath was huge and more than intimidating. He was 9ft 9in. tall. It's hard to wrap our minds around his size. The tallest NBA players average around 7ft. 7in. and the Guinness World Record holder

for tallest man was Robert Wadlow who measured 8ft. 11in.²

Even though Goliath was taller than this, he was not a lanky Ichabod Crane. He was a brute – a hulking figure. The man wore 125lb. coat of armor in addition to a bronze helmet and bronze armor on his legs. He had three weapons: a sword,³ a javelin on his back (better understood as a curved short sword or scimitar)⁴, and he was carrying a spear that had a 15lb pound iron tip. This spear would have been the equivalent of a missile in his hands. Goliath also had a shield bearer standing in front of him while he hurled insults and threats at Israel.

So much attention-to-detail is given here in order to make it abundantly clear that this guy was terrifying and seemingly invincible. Not a single man in Israel's army had any thought of "Yea, he's big, but I think I stand a chance." By all outward appearances, this was impossible.

Verse 11 says, ***"When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."*** They looked at their own strength and lost hope.

² <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/records/hall-of-fame/robert-wadlow-tallest-man-ever>

³ Goliath's three weapons: Javelin/scimitar, spear, and sword in a sheath (cf. 1 Sam. 17:45, 51)

⁴ Jeffrey R. Zorn, "Reconsidering Goliath: An Iron Age I Philistine Chariot Warrior," (Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research No. 360

How easy it is for us to do this when we encounter difficulties. The knee-jerk reaction of our heart is to size up the enemy and compare it to our own strength. This can lead to either despair, delusion, or dependence. We can despair in our weakness or we can delude ourselves into thinking we are strong enough to handle the issue.

[SLIDE]

Look through the eyes of faith (vv. 1-27)

- Look beyond outward appearances (vv. 1-11)
- Look through God's perspective (vv. 12-27)



But humble dependence looks beyond outward appearances and looks through God's perspective.

(The University of Chicago Press, November 2010), 9-10. Accessed March 25th, 2022,

https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/103927/Reconsidering_Goliath.pdf?sequence=2

In verse 12 we have a sudden shift in scene from the battle field and a terrified army, to the pasture and a peaceful shepherd. Enter David.

About forty days have passed between verse 11 and 12 and we find David dutifully working two jobs. While the confrontation with Goliath carries on, David is shepherding his father's sheep and serving as Saul's armor bearer and personal musician.

Now we don't know David's exact age. There is no indication in the text that he was a little boy. He was most likely under the age of 20 since that was the requirement for serving in the military.⁵ Yet, despite this, God providentially worked through simple obedience to bring David to the battle line at just the right time.

David's father Jesse tells him to take some food to his brothers and their commander, and to bring back a report of how they are doing. Once David arrives to visit his brothers, he just so happens to hear Goliath's threats and challenge.

Verse 24 tells us that ***“All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.”***

But David responds very differently. He walks up to some of these men and asks in verse 26 ***“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?”

These are the very first words of David recorded in the Bible and they are theologically rich. He is not afraid. In fact, he is angry! He doesn't say, “whoa, look at that dude. He's huge!” He says ***“who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”***

David is looking at the problem through God's perspective. He saw more than survival at stake – he saw God's honor at was stake.

From God's perspective, Goliath was an arrogant unbeliever who was in over his head for disrespecting the “living God.” This title describes God as the source of all life and therefore the authority over all creation.⁶ No enemy can overpower God and no enemy can defy God and get away with it.

By outward appearances, Israel was no match for Goliath. But from God's perspective, Goliath was a puny ant about to be stepped on.

⁵ Numbers 1:3; 26:2; see also Saul's rebuttal in 1 Sam. 17:33

⁶ “God's essence is consummate power, so he is life in and of himself, and he is the source of life for all (Created) living beings and exercises authority over them. He is

‘the living God’ (Deut. 5:26; Josh. 3:10; 1 Sam. 17:26, 36; 2 Kings 19:4, 16; Pss. 42:2; 84:2; Isa. 37:4, 17; Jer. 10:10; 23:36; Dan. 6:20, 26; Hos. 1:10).” (MacArthur & Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 158-59)

[SLIDE APPLICATION]

Application

Replace man-centered thinking
with God-centered thinking



Application: Looking through eyes of faith requires us to replace man-centered thinking with God-centered thinking. Man-centered thinking asks “How can I get out of this situation?” God-centered thinking says “How I can honor God in this situation?”

When we encounter various trials our hearts are tested to see what’s inside. Just like a hot water draws out the contents of a tea bag, so do trials draw out the contents of our heart. They reveal whether we are pursuing pleasure, idolatry, materialism, comfort, or even survival, or whether we are pursuing God’s honor above all.

When we look through the eyes of faith, we will see our enemies rightly in comparison to the “living God” - that He is sovereign and uses all things in our life for our good

⁷ Romans 8:28-29

⁸ 2 Corinthians 12:9-12

and His honor.⁷ In our weakness we will see our humble dependence upon our strong Deliverer.⁸

IV. Embrace a high view of God (vv. 28-40)

[SLIDE]

Embrace a high view of God (vv. 28-40)



The second key to living in humble dependence is to embrace a high view of God.

A high view of God means we see Him as lifted up to the highest position of authority and honor.⁹

A.W. Tozer wrote that the most important “fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.”¹⁰

⁹ See also Ps. 22:13; 57:5, 11; 99:5, 9

¹⁰ A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, (CreateSpace, 2013), 8.

What you believe about God is the most important thing about you because it will govern your eternal destiny and how you live in the present.

One of the evidences of a high view of God is a heart attitude that says, “Whatever your Word says, I will submit to it and do it.”

This is something that Saul and his army lacked. They had a low view of God and high view of themselves.

Look at verse 28. Eliab, David’s oldest brother, overhears David talking about fighting Goliath. He puts David down, in typical older brother fashion, saying **“Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”** To which David responds **“What have I done now? Was it not but a word?”**

You ask, “How is this a low view of God?” The answer pride. Eliab was proud and pride is the enemy of God’s honor.

[SLIDE]

Embrace a high view of God (vv. 28-40)

- Lay down your pride (vv. 28-33)



In order to have a high view of God you have to lay down your pride. Eliab wouldn’t do that. In chapter 16 we find that Eliab was the first candidate paraded in front of the prophet Samuel in the hopes that he would be anointed as king. By all outward appearances he seemed like a good fit. He was the oldest and he was a good looking man outwardly. But God passed up Eliab and the 6 other older brothers and chose David because God looks at the heart.¹¹

You don’t have to imagine the jealousy and anger Eliab had toward David because you hear it in his speech. But his anger is ultimately directed at God. Eliab esteems himself wiser than God. Eliab wants to be honored rather than to honor God.

¹¹ 1 Samuel 16:7
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Saul also had a low view of God. He should have been the spiritual leader and an example of faith to Israel. But he had a history of disobeying God's commands and fearing man more than God.¹² So God ripped the kingdom¹³ and the special empowerment of the Holy Spirit away from him.¹⁴ But Saul would not humble himself before God.

So when word of David's willingness to fight Goliath reached Saul, he naturally and eagerly called for him, but boy was he surprised when that person turned out to be too young to fight. Despite David's words of encouragement, Saul says to David in verse 33, ***"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."***

With the battle-tested voice of reason, Saul rejects his offer to fight. In his own human estimation, this is a foolish endeavor from a spirited young man. "Your hearts in the right place kid, but this is crazy talk."

In his pride, Saul had no grid or framework for how God would bring about victory through such weakness. He was blind to the ways of God.

Our pride can blind us too. In our pride we think we think our ways are better than God's ways. Or that we deserve better than what we have. That pride can

¹² 1 Samuel 13:8-14; 15:1-35

¹³ 1 Samuel 15:26-29

tempt us to resent the situations God has placed us in. But a high view of God reminds us that He is wise and good and is doing what is best even when we don't understand.

[SLIDE]

Embrace a high view of God (vv. 28-40)

- Lay down your pride (vv. 28-33)
- Lay hold of God's power (vv. 34-40)



David's response to Saul reveals how we can cultivate a high view of God. After we lay down pride, we must lay hold of God's power.

David's response shows his courage comes not from skill or self-reliance, but from trusting in God's power.

He tries to persuade Saul to let him fight by sharing his experience with God's power while shepherding sheep.

On multiple occasions, lions and bears took a lamb from his flock and David would run to rescue the lamb and

¹⁴ 1 Samuel 16:14

chase the lion away, but if the lion wanted to fight then he grabbed the beast by the mane and killed it. David then sentences Goliath to the same fate as those lions and bears.

But David's courage does not come from luck or skill; it comes from YHWH alone. David gives God all the credit in verse 37, "***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.***"

As one commentator noted, "David will be delivered not because he has true grit but because he knows the true God."¹⁵

Saul, beginning to see that YHWH was truly with this young man, grants permission and say, "***Go, and the LORD be with you.***"

[APPLICATION SLIDE]



Application: True grit comes from having a high view of the true God. But we often struggle with spiritual amnesia. We forget about God's promises and character. To combat this we need to meditate upon God's promises and character.

Sometimes we act like the Israelites in the wilderness. Even though they had seen God work mightily before, they panicked and complained against God whenever they encountered a new threat. Meditating on God's Word helps sustain us in the middle of difficulties.

David teaches us that faith in the present is sustained by God's provisions in the past.

¹⁵ Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel: Looking on the Heart* (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications Ltd, 2008), 186.

David knew God's power in his life personally. David knew about God's power displayed in Israel's past: from the Exodus, to the walls of Jericho to Gideon and his 300 men – these were all situations in which God alone received the glory for delivering Israel from her enemies.

David also knew of God's promises in the present. David was newly anointed king and that God would use him to deliver Israel.

Do you recognize God's power displayed in your life? Do you know about God's power displayed through history? Do you know about God's promises for your life now and in the future?

If we meditate on God's Word then we will be well prepared to humbly depend on Him for His honor.

V. Obey the commands of God (vv. 41-54)

[SLIDE]

Obey the commands of God (vv. 41-54)



The final key to living in humble dependence is to obey the commands of God.

Obedience is a sign of humility. It's the act of choosing God's will over yours. It is the embodiment of the attitude "not my will, but your will be done." It comes from a heart that prays "***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.***"

David knew what God's commandments and what He expected him to do. He set out to fulfill the role of warrior-king, to which he was anointed, by fighting Goliath. Even though he was not sitting on the throne yet, he had still been given the responsibility of leading Israel's army and conquering her enemies for God's honor.

[SLIDE]

Obey the commands of God (vv. 41-54)

- Fight with God's strength (vv. 41-54)



It's just as important to note HOW David obeyed God's commands. He did it by fighting with God's strength.

Saul tried to give David appropriate armor and weapons for combat, but David wasn't used to such things. He took the weapons he knew best – his staff and his sling – and then went out to meet Goliath.

Goliath sees David, this young man, dressed in nothing but dirty shepherds clothing, coming out to fight him and it makes him mad. He

Goliath feels disrespected and wants to make an example of David. ***“Come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.”*** I'm gonna kill you and then desecrate your body by leaving it as bird and animal food.

But David is unphased by Goliath's threats because he is going to fight with God's strength. He fires back his own verbal spice saying in verse 45 ***“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, who you have defied.”*** Goliath had originally mocked Israel as the army of Saul, but boy was he wrong! This is the army of the LORD of hosts – the Lord who commands the armies of heaven.

But here is the key to understanding this whole chapter. Verses 46-47, ***“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, 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.”***

This is so important church. David didn't just hike up his boots and rely on his own strength to obey God. He went out completely dependent upon the LORD for the strength and ability to obey. The battle is the LORD's. It's His to win.

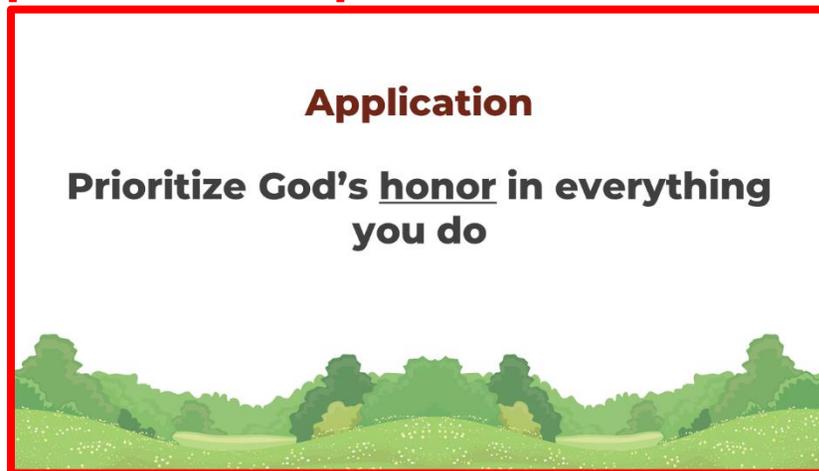
As you know, the battle ended quickly. David, unencumbered by armor, ran toward Goliath, slung a stone, struck him in the only weak spot, it sunk into his head, and brought the giant down. There was no sword in his hand – proving the battle was won by the LORD.

The two armies must have stood dumbstruck. I can only imagine there was a moment of silence as they processed what just happened. But David kept running toward Goliath because he wasn't dead yet. Perhaps Goliath was writhing on the ground, or struggling to get up, but he wasn't dead yet, so David borrowed his sword and killed him by cutting off his head. That's the part you don't read about in children's Bibles.

The Philistines reneged on their deal to serve the winner and flee in terror. Israel now emboldened follows in hot pursuit and kills many of them.

This great victory came about because David humbly depended on the LORD by obeying His commands and fighting with His strength.

[APPLICATION SLIDE]



Application: The only way you can obey the commands of God like David is if you prioritize God's honor in everything you do. We must be jealous for God's honor, but we cannot do it apart from his strength. Every battle you fight in life is not yours, it's the LORD's. Zealously labor with the strength that God provides for He is at work in you both to will and do for His good pleasure.

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God. Overcome fear with God's strength and share the gospel in love with your neighbor, co-worker, or family member. You might be hated, but it is for God's honor. In your work ethic, work as unto the LORD and not unto man, not as people pleasers.

In your relationships honor God by considering others more important than yourself. Ask for forgiveness and extend forgiveness as you have been forgiven in Christ. In your marriages honor God by honoring your spouse. Parent with faithfulness for God's honor and not for results. Guard your heart, mind, and speech against the impurity of this age so that the gospel might not be reviled. Do it all out of jealousy for God's glory.

VI. Conclusion

[MAIN POINT SLIDE]

Main point

Humbly depend on God to deliver you for His glory



David is an example to us of humble dependence upon God. He teaches us how to jealously honor Him with eyes of faith, a high view of God, and obedience to God's commands. David's example is encouraging because he wasn't perfect - was still a sinner.

David was an adulterer, a murderer, a bad father, and he struggled with pride. He was a hard sinner at times, but he was also a humble repentor. He loved God and trusted in Him alone for salvation.

[SERMON SERIES SLIDE]



MORE THAN A CHILDREN'S STORY

Jealous for God's Honor



1 Samuel 17

Ultimately David trusted in God's promise that his descendant would be the Messiah who would be the true King for all eternity.¹⁶ That descendant was and is Jesus Christ, the son of God, born of the virgin Mary, who came to earth to live the perfect life we could never live and die the death we deserved on the cross. He took the wrath of God upon Himself and clothes in righteousness those who trust in Him alone and His work on the cross alone.

Trusting in Jesus is the ultimate daily expression humble dependence upon God. The battle over sin and death is the LORD's. In Christ we have guaranteed victory over all that is evil and it is all for God's glory. We can only boast in Christ. If Christ is for us, what can stand against us.

¹⁶ 2 Samuel 7:8-17

Since we humbly depend on Jesus's victory over sin and death, let us also humbly depend upon Him in all things.