

Come follow Me
Elo Viz production
Week 25
1st Samuel 8-18

This week we are studying the very well known story of David and Goliath. It truly is an amazing story that has lasted for thousands of years in our common mainstream language. You can hardly watch a sports event without someone mentioning those 2 names as they describe a sports situation. And while there are lots to discuss in that specific experience, I would like to look at another part of the story that preceded the fall of the great giant.

To set the scene, The children of Israel after the reign of Joshua were led independently by their leader in each tribe. To put it bluntly; it was a mess. Every man did that which was right in his own sight. Meaning it was a free for all and tons of souls were lost to the destroyer. God had to do something, he had to step in. So he gives them another King. King Saul; who was chosen at the hand of Samuel the prophet under the direction of the Holy Spirit. At first Saul was a great King. but that quickly changed as he became bitter, jealous, and angry. It all started when he stopped listening to the voice of the Spirit and even the direction of the prophet Samuel. They were actually very close until certain events caused Saul to turn against the Prophet and sought to take away his life. In Chapter 15 Samuel gives Saul a stern lecture, and as he turns to leave Saul grabs Samuel's garment and tears a part off of it. Samuel whips around and these are his words in verse 28:

“And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the **kingdom** of Israel from thee this day, and hath **given** it to a **neighbour** of thine, *that is* better than thou.”

This neighbor that Samuel is speaking of will be David the son of Jesse. I'd like to look closely at why and how David is chosen to be the next King, the new ruler over God's chosen people. It starts in Chapter 16: Verse 1 says:

“And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to **Jesse** the **Beth-lehemite**: for I have provided me a **king** among his sons.”

It's important to remember that Saul and Samuel were great friends. Samuel loved Saul very much. And even though Samuel realizes that Saul has taken the dark path to loneliness he still longs to help Saul and to try and save him. But God knows that Saul won't repent in this life and will die a bitter, lonely old man. So God says to Samuel; It's time to move on and prepare the next King. Get to the house of Jesse and I will show you whom I have chosen. Samuel is still a little hesitant. In verse two he expressed his concern that Saul will kill him if he finds out what he is doing. But God in his wisdom will protect Samuel and tells him to bring a calf to sacrifice as he goes into the city of Bethlehem and Calls Jesse to bring all of his sons to meet him.

Starting in verse 6:

“And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on [Eliab](#), and said, Surely the Lord’s anointed *is* before him. But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the Lord seeth* not as [man](#) seeth; for man looketh on the outward [appearance](#), but the [Lord](#) looketh on the [heart](#).”

Eliab is the oldest of Jesse’s sons and should have been the one chosen. However God is teaching Jesse, those boys and us something special here: Eliab may have had all the outward appearances of a great King. But that is not what God was looking for. God was looking for someone with a pure heart. We will come back to this principle after we look at the rest of this story.

So Eliab is rejected, then the second oldest Abinadab is also rejected, then the 3rd son Shammah is brought before Samuel and also rejected. Then the other 4 sons are brought to Samuel one by one and all 7 are rejected to be the anointed king. Samuel turns to Jesse and says in verse 11:

“Are here all *thy* children? And he (Jesse) said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.”

I find this exchange very interesting. Here we have 2 Godly men, Samuel and Jesse and both of them are presuming to know what God wants and needs. Samuel sees Jesse’s oldest son Eliab and says “this is the guy” He is the oldest son, he is tall and built and has a kingly look with a good countenance. And God says “nope” what you see if not what I see. Then Jesse deliberately doesn’t invite his youngest son David to the party. He thinks, surly David is not what God wants. He is a small redhead kid, a shepherd boy with a baby face. God would never choose him as the new king; wrong again. God is teaching both of these men that he is seeing something that they don’t. God chose David!

Verse 12: “And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.”

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and [anointed](#) him in the midst of his brethren: and the [Spirit](#) of the Lord came upon [David](#) from that day forward.”

This is the first of 3 times that David is anointed. The anointing back then was different from how we do it today. And I am grateful for that. The word “anoint” in Hebrew means “to smear”, This is why Samuel was told to bring a horn of oil to anoint David. They would literally take oil and pour it over the head of the person being anointed and smear it all over their head. It’s a funny thing to visualize when we read about it.

So, Why David? What was so special about him that made him different from his brothers or from any other man of the children of Israel?

Did you know there are more chapters devoted to David than any other prophet in the scriptures. 66 total chapters talk about David's life. He was amazing! But he was also flawed. He made some devastating mistakes later in his life that we will read about but right now as a young shepherd boy he has a giant spirit. More faith than anyone that we have read about so far in our studies. His faith in God was so strong that he wasn't scared of anything. When he was alone in the fields and a lion would come and attack the sheep he would chase after the lion and grab it by the beard and slay it! What would you do if you came face to face with a lion in a field by yourself? For me I'm sure I would run like David did but it would be in the opposite direction and there may or may not be screaming involved.

But not with David. Solid, immovable faith. Bears would attack... no problem. He had piles of bear skin rugs. Even when he was faced with a Giant, the scriptures tell us he was over 9 feet tall. The average israely in that day was 5 ft 5 inch, and David was constantly berated for being small and skinny. So we could probably safely assume he was shorter than 5 ft tall. Goliath was nearly twice his height and weighed probably 4 times as much as David did. And he doesn't even flinch when Goliath laughs at and threatens him. How did he get such courage?

Listen to David's response when Goliath came close to David cursing him and his God. Chapter 17 verse

“Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the **name** of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord **deliver** thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls 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 all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the **battle** is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.”

Wow. Do you think that if you were in David's situation you would have the faith and courage to respond that way and to run full speed at a giant in total confidence that God would deliver you? If your answer is not a resounding “yes” then I ask you; why not? To give us a little perspective we see the other side of the scale with Saul's response to Samuel when he said:

1st Samuel 15:24

“I have **sinned**: for I have **transgressed** the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I **feared** the people, and obeyed their voice.”

If those are the 2 extremes, where do we see yourselves on that spectrum? Perhaps you aren't quite to David's level yet, but hopefully we aren't sitting on the bottom of the barrel with Saul. But even if you are, there is hope. It all starts with us coming to know God so we can trust him fully. If you look back on your life you can surely recognize that God has not let you down. He never has and He never will. If He can give strength to a young shepherd boy in the face of lions and bears and Giants... You can be certain He can give you strength in whatever trials you are facing today or in the future. All he asks is that you have a pure heart. A heart that shuns sin and has complete and genuine love for God and all his children. If you find you are holding on to hate or envy, I pray you'll find the faith to let it go. If your thoughts are constantly pulled

towards the world and its empty promises. I pray you will turn to God and ponder on his truth and his ways. These 2 simple steps will start you on the path to becoming as faith filled and God dependant as David was when he faced some of the scariest things this world can offer. For God these things were easy to overcome for David, and for you, whatever trials and challenges you face are also easy for God to overcome. He will be your strength and your song of Glory when you have turned to Him in all things. Doubt not, Fear not. For God reigneth.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.