

Sermon on David and Goliath  
January 6, 2002  
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## **David and Goliath---1 Samuel 17**

**The context of this passage: 1 Sam. 16:13-14.**

**The purpose of this passage: To serve as an immediate illustration of how powerfully the Spirit had come upon David, contrasted with showing how the Spirit had departed from Saul.**

**I. Who are the Philistines? Why do they oppose Israel?**

**A. This is a motif repeated again and again in the history of Israel. Pagan idols vs. the true, living God. The purpose of such battles is to show who the true God is.**

**B. Examples----**

**1. Pharoah vs. God in Exodus.**

**a. Pharoah's were thought to be gods.**

**b. The Egyptians had a whole stable of idols.**

**c. God's response---The 10 plagues were directed against Egypt's various idols.**

**Examples---When God turned the Nile into blood, He was mocking the Nile god. Egyptians also worshipped frogs.**

**So God gave them a plague of them and made them sick of frogs.**

**d. The ultimate defeat---the Red Sea.**

**C. Note this motif in 1 Samuel 17.**

**1. David represents the "armies of the living God." (v. 26).**

**2. The purpose of the battle is so that "the whole world will know that there is a**

God in Israel.” (v. 46).

3. This is important, as it gives us insight into David’s heart. Saul surely did not possess this kind of passion for the reputation of God’s name. Saul’s passion was for the reputation of his own name (see 1 Samuel 18:6-9).

It is against this background that God chooses to show how powerfully the Spirit had come upon David, in contrast with how the Spirit had departed Saul.

I. SAUL---He serves to show how people not empowered by the Spirit see everything in selfish, human terms. They live and act as though there is not God and they are at the mercy of man and life’s circumstances.

A. Saul’s reaction to the problem---(v. 8-11).

1. Dismayed and terrified. (v. 11)
2. Saul had already shown himself to be influenced by the fear of man.
  - a. Remember 1 Sam. 15:24? That’s how Saul lost his privileged position of service to God---fear of man.
  - b. Goliath must be his worst nightmare.

3. We are going to fear one of two things:  
God or man.

- a. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom---Proverbs.
- b. The fear of man will prove to be a snare...Prov. 29:25.
- c. Paul understood this. See Gal. 1:10.
- d. Peter learned it the hard way. See Luke 22:54-62.

B. Saul’s reaction to the problem drove Saul’s analysis of the problem----(v. 33).

C. Saul’s analysis of the problem drove Saul’s solution to the problem---(vv. 25, 38).

D. In this story, Saul is stripped bear and provides a tragic picture of a believer

attempting to live life without the power of the Spirit. This story vividly pictures Saul's utter failure as a leader. The rest of his life will be marked by fear, insecurity, doubt, bitterness, jealousy.

E. He is a man who will only give lip-service to God from here on out. (v. 37b).

1. "God go with you, son. I sure won't!"

II. DAVID---He serves to show how people empowered by the Spirit have the courage to face great risk and even impossible tasks and bring great glory to God by their faith and courage.

A. David's reaction to and analysis of the problem---(v. 26).

1. The reputation of God was being attacked and David wasn't going to tolerate it.

2. Notice that David is not driven by the fear of man. Not only is he willing to fight Goliath, but he is not deterred by criticism of his convictions and mean-spirited questioning of his motives by others, even his own brothers (vv. 28-32) ---this is the power of the Spirit.

3. Note the covenant language in David's analysis of the problem.

a. "uncircumcised" Philistine (vv. 26,36).

b. Defying the "armies of the living God." (vv. 26,36).

c. David analyzes this as a battle between pagan idolators and the living God, represented by His covenant people, Israel. (vv. 43-45).

d. In such a battle, David's Spirit-filled convictions are that God *must* and *will* prevail! (v. 46).

B. David's Spirit-filled reaction to and analysis of the problem drove David's solution to the problem.

**1. Where Saul saw things in strictly human terms, David knew that if he sought to carry out the will of God, he could expect supernatural help (vv. 33-37).**

**a. David had to be a man who knew and had deep convictions about the Scriptures, where God had over and over again fought for Israel and miraculously delivered her against impossible odds.**

**RESULTS:**

**A. Saul's powerless leadership: (vv. 23-24).**

**B. David's Spirit-filled leadership: (vv. 51-53).**

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. Where Saul finishes out his life as a believer marked by powerlessness, insecurity, and failure, David will go forward in the power of the Spirit and accomplish great things for God in some unbelievable ways. With God's blessing, he becomes revered as the greatest King in Israel's history, even unto today. He further becomes the prophetic prototype of the future reign of the Messiah over Israel in the Millennial Kingdom.**

**B. Important applications-----**

**1. The Christian life cannot be lived in the energy of the flesh. We must be filled with the Spirit or we will fail miserably.**

**2. Life's problems must be viewed through the context of the Person and power of God, not human terms.**

**3. Life's problems require spiritual solutions, not earthly wisdom and human schemes.**

**4. A powerless, sinful people of God (individual or church) bring great disgrace upon His name.**

- 5. A Spirit-filled Christian is driven by one passion: the glory of God.**
- 6. A Spirit-filled Christian will greatly inspire and influence others. His passion for God will be contagious.**

**IMPORTANT QUESTION:**

**“Which kind of believer do we more resemble?  
Saul or David?”**