

Killing Giants

I Samuel 17: 1–54

Intro: What is there in your life that just seems to over power you or to intimidate you? Is it some habit, some attitude, some feeling? Is it some person that seems to stand between you and success?

All of us have giants that we will be called to face at some point in our journey through life. A boss, a communication problem, a bad attitude, discouragement, pride, laziness, or any number of things. David faced his Goliath. Who or what is your Goliath and how are you going to face him and deal with him in your situation.

To help us, I would like to think about this very memorable Bible story and see if we can learn some things from it that will help and encourage us to deal with our giants.

I. Define the giants.

A. A giant is, anything in my life that should have been put to death.

These are mainly old habits I am talking about. And one day, we wake up to find that this thing has become a real big problem, or giant for us. Again, usually these are habits, and attitudes and priorities, but they are big ones.

Colossians 3:3 says, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Going on to V-5 Paul continues by writing, So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry.

So the giants in our lives are those things which should have been put to death, once we are in Christ. Someone said, **If the giant in my life, I do not slay, He will live to fight another day.**

Have we slain the giants of discouragement, dissension, strife, pride, stubbornness, rebellion etc. in our life and the life of our church?

B. A giant is anything in my life that is bigger than I am.

In I Samuel 17:4 we see David encountering someone in His life who was bigger than He was. Goliath was about 9 ft. 9 in. What problem in your life is bigger than the resources you have to deal with? Whatever it is, it is a giant.

Is the giant in our life and the life of our church an improper view of just who you really are in Christ. That's a Goliath in the lives of many Christians and churches.

C. A giant is also anything that stands in the way of progress.

I believe that many Christians face the giants of apathy, fear, lack of commitment, improper priorities, and selfishness in their spiritual lives. These are the giants in their lives which hinder their progress towards spiritual maturity.

Question: How many of these that I just named are giants in your spiritual walk?

D. A giant is anything in my life that creates a paralyzing fear.

Notice V-24 and the reaction of the men of Israel when they saw Goliath. It says, *As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright.*

I would suggest that sometimes God seems to be a giant in the lives of many Christians as he challenges us to growth and service which we feel ill prepared to undertake. What other things cause you to be afraid? Many are afraid to take leadership roles. Others afraid of following. Others afraid of rejection, of making mistakes, having to be subject to others etc. Others are afraid to make decisions. Others are afraid of a variety of things.

Thought: It is interesting, when asked what robbed him of more peace and victory in His life, a man said, the fear of the things that never happened.

E. A giant is anything in my life that dishonors the Lord.

Notice V-26 *David talked to some others standing there to verify the report. "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and putting an end to his abuse of Israel?" he asked them. "Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"*

Here we see that David was upset because this big, overstuffed, Philistine was dishonoring God. Is our lack of commitment, is our lack of Godly priorities, are our habits all giants in our lives that dishonor the Lord. I have some in mine, How about you?

Matthew 6:33 says *seek ye first the kingdom of God and all those things shall be added unto you.*

If I realize that there are these giants in my life and they are a real problem then how do I deal with them, Lets look at

II. How to destroy these giants.

The key here will be our attitudes. Our attitudes can either be our giants, or our giant killers. So the first way to defeat the giant is when.

A. We refuse the fears and unbelief of others and meet him head on.

Notice V32 David gave Saul some great words. He said, and I am paraphrasing here, *Look Saul, don't let any of your people get frightened and become paralyzed with fear about this guy. No, don't let it happen, because I'll go do the job myself.*

We can destroy many giants in our lives and ministries if we just get on with the program. How about you, are you ready to get on with the giant killing business? You can't till you pluck up the courage to get on with the task at hand.

B. We draw strength from God's delivering power in the past.

Look at David's attitude concerning this. He told Saul V 37, *The Lord delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of the Philistine.*

David stopped to think back on God's deliverance from a couple of earlier giants in His life, the lion and the bear. David concluded that because God was faithful in the past, Goliath would soon be history. What have you been delivered from in the past? Has God proven Himself faithful to you?

We can slay the giants we now face, because of God's past faithfulness to us. How about let's stop being afraid, and start slaying your giants, which are usually bad attitudes, fears, discouragement, apathy, rebellion, stubbornness and other things that keep you from the victory God wants you to have.

C. Trust God to use the common things and common skills in our lives.

See V-40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across to fight Goliath. Not very complicated pieces of equipment were they?

Many giants in our lives will fall when we simply use what is at hand and quit waiting for miracles. Instead lets learn to use the simple things and let God give miraculous results. Use your marvelous minds, use your spiritual instincts which God has given you and waiting for you to use. Use your faith, use your spiritual backbone.

D. We truly believe that God is greater than all the giants.

V-46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!

It doesn't matter how big our giants are, our God gives them as a carcass to the birds of the air. Some people say I can't fight the giant because They're too big. While others say, with God's help, I can fight him because He's too big to miss.

E. We can destroy them when we sincerely desire to have God glorified in the conquest.

Notice V-47 it says *And everyone will know that the LORD does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours.*

I believe we will see more destroyed giants if we will testify publicly of the victories God gives. We worry about testifying because of what people might think about what we have been struggling with.

Maybe smoking, drinking, lustful thoughts, apathy, fear of failure, discouragement, problems in relationships ect. But these giants will fall, when we get to the place where we can testify of the giants from our past that have been slain by the power of God.

F. Finally notice that Giant killers inspire other giant killers.

In II Samuel 21 we have another little story of note, following this episode with Goliath, David grew older and carried on with his life. But lets see what happened.

Look at the giant killers that rose up. I Samuel 21:15-22 Read these verses carefully and be encouraged

David made this foray into the land of the giants back in I Samuel 17 and destroyed Goliath, who was the first giant that tried to stop God's person. And now years later, other giant killers followed in David's mold.

How about you? Does God want to use you as an example of a giant killer in order to inspire those who observe you, so they can become giant killers in their own right? This great story from the O.T. is given to inspire us to not knuckle under to those things which would keep us from victory.

Remember that little saying which I shared earlier?

If the giant in my life I do not slay, He will live to fight another day.

This is true, But God's ability through us should be enough to make us seriously and joyously consider joining the fray. Don't waste your lives sitting on the sideline when your giants are as good as conquered in Christ.

Let me read just three short passages to you to encourage you in your giant hunting

Romans 8:31—39 (Note V 37)

³¹ *What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?*

³² *Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?*

³³ *Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.*

³⁴ *Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

³⁵ *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?*

³⁶ *(As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")*

³⁷ ***No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.***

³⁸ *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.*

³⁹ *No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

I Corinthians 15:57,58 *But thank God for letting our Lord Jesus Christ give us the victory! My dear friends, stand firm and don't be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile.*

Colossians 3:23,24 *Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master. In fact, the Lord Christ is the one you are really serving, and*

you know that he will reward you.

In closing your giant may be your pride and fear of coming to Christ in the first place. Why not slay that giant today and come to Christ while you can? To do that read these next few lines, follow the directions and find help for fighting all the giants yet to come on your journey.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)