

DAVID IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH

1st Samuel 17

The boy with the slingshot taking down the champion of Gath is a story that thrills us from childhood on up! That exciting narrative includes some details often overlooked.

I. “CARRY THESE TEN CHEESES”

A. 1st Samuel 17:14-19

David did not enter the valley that day in order to slay a giant. He did not have visions of grandeur for himself. The boy came to do humble work on an errand from his father. He came to deliver cheese and bread – the ancient equivalent of the GrubHub driver. If he had gone in search of daring deeds, he may never have found them, but when he went humbly willing to work, an opportunity for greatness presented itself.

B. Luke 14:7-11

Start in a lowly position and see if you will be elevated, rather than starting at the top and embarrassing yourself. Do the small jobs first.

II. “WHAT HAVE I DONE NOW?”

A. 1st Samuel 17:20-30

Despite being sent by their father (17:17), having previously spent time in the camp (17:12-15), having served as court musician and armorbearer to the king (16:14-23), and having been anointed in the presence of his brothers by Samuel the prophet to be the next king of Israel (16:1-13), David’s arrival on the battlefield that day and his inquisitiveness annoyed his big brother!

B. Ecclesiastes 4:4

Eliab resented David, possibly because he had been passed over in favor of his kid brother to be the next king (16:6-7). Regardless of the motive, Eliab and the rest of the army were scared and doing nothing (17:11), but David arrived

and immediately got to asking pertinent questions (17:20-27). That did not set well with the older brother. Let's not be the type of brother who resents the doers amongst us.

III. "YOUR SERVANT USED TO KEEP HIS FATHER'S SHEEP"

A. **1st Samuel 17:33-37**

David was merely a youth (17:33, 42, 55, 58), but was already well experienced working in mortal peril to protect his father's flocks (John 10:11).

B. **Lamentations 3:27**

Expecting the young to work hard is good for them. It build character and prepares them for challenges.

IV. "I CANNOT WALK WITH THESE"

A. **1st Samuel 17:38-39**

Until this day, David never served on the battlefield in a higher position than armorbearer to the king (16:21), which means he wasn't personally a combatant, so he had no armor of his own. The king offered his armor, but Saul was head and shoulders taller than every other man in the kingdom (9:2), while David's stature was nothing to be impressed by (16:7). The armor just did not fit.

B. **Ephesians 6:10-17**

There is only one suit of armor that fits the soldier of Christ. Be sure you're wearing it!

V. "I COME TO YOU IN THE NAME OF JEHOVAH OF HOSTS, THE GOD OF THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL"

A. **1st Samuel 17:45-51**

David had the Spirit of Jehovah upon him (16:13), so this was not false confidence or braggadocio. He stood and he spoke in righteous defiance of heathen giant.

B. 2nd Timothy 1:7; 1st Corinthians 16:13

When it is clear that we are on God's side, we must move swiftly and boldly into action!

VI. "THE SOUL OF JONATHAN WAS KNIT TO THE SOUL OF DAVID"

A. 1st Samuel 18:1-4

David and Jonathan epitomize friendship. Despite inordinate obstacles, their bond never weakened over the years. If there is a virtuous and valiant warrior of God whom you can claim to be your best friend, you are deeply blessed.

B. Colossians 2:1-2

It was Paul's prayer for church members to have a bond like David and Jonathan had. Church is the best source of friendship.

VII. "SAUL EYED DAVID FROM THAT DAY FORWARD"

A. 1st Samuel 18:5-9

Saul loved David's victory over Goliath for a moment, but once it became clear how favored he was by the people, especially in contrast to himself, he regarded him with suspicion. When the Israelites demanded a king, they expected him to fight their battles (8:20), but Saul froze in the presence of Goliath; whereas David rose up and slew the giant! He deserved the people's adulation.

B. 1st Timothy 6:3-5; 1st Corinthians 13:4-5

Godly people don't engage in evil surmising. Rather, through love, they choose not to be provoked.