



Honing in on the Heart!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #32:

‘Two Kings in One Kingdom!’

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

Last week in ‘Honing in on the Heart:

- Last week we were able to wrap up chapter 16 in 1st Samuel, as we looked at a sermon entitled *‘Two Kings in one Kingdom!’*
 - I asked the question: *What occurs and develops in this passage as there are two Kings in One Kingdom?*
 - **Truth #1: *Reckoning on Saul. (V. 14-15)***
 - **Truth #2: *Relief for Saul. (V. 16-18)***
 - **Truth #3: *A Relationship for Saul. (V. 19-23)***
- Based on last Wednesday’s sermon, have you thought about who you are most similar to in the way that you live your life?
 - *Is your life more similar to Saul or David?*

‘Give God a Chance!’

1st Samuel 17:1-30

Sermon in a Sentence:

In the well known narrative from scripture that we often refer to as ‘David Killed Goliath’ we find the scriptural truth that we should always Give God a Chance. We see this in the text when we see an Unfathomable Situation, an Unthinkable Son shows up, the Unachievable Task Remains, and the Unreachable Brother.

Intro:

- Tonight in our series through 1st Samuel, is different from any other message we’ve had so far.
 - ***Here’s why: Most everyone in the sanctuary tonight has more familiarity with this narrative, than any other of the passages we’ve studied in Samuel thus far.***
- ***Whether you grew up in Church or not, a large percentage of people (even lost people), have been told this story since they were children.***
 - You may have first heard this story from a Children’s storybook, or were taught it in Sunday School.
 - You may have heard this story from a motivational speaker or preacher who wanted to encourage you to face your giants, and defeat them.
- ***Whatever the case, it’s a well known story in scripture. But I want you to see tonight that what we will study***

in 1st Samuel 17 tonight and next week, (we're breaking it up into 2 parts), is not just a story, but it is truth. It happened.

- *In 2007 the Christian Post did a survey to find out if the average American believed the miracles that are found in the Bible.*
 - 75% of Americans interpreted the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ as literal truth.
 - 65% of Americans believed that Daniel surviving the lions den was literal truth.
 - 64% of Americans believe that Moses really parted the Red Sea.
 - Only 60% of adults polled believe Peter walking on the water as literal truth.
 - Only **63%** of the 1,000 American Adults polled in 2007, believe the story of David and Goliath as literal truth.
- *Church, what we find in our scripture text tonight is crazy. Something that only God Himself could do. But, it happened.*
 - I want to remind you that we believe as a Church, that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God. All things in this book happened. They are real. It's the literal truth.
 - 'All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God[a]

may be complete, equipped for every good work.' 2nd Timothy 3:16-17

- *Now, let me express a warning before we dive into the text...*
 - It can be tempting when we look into a narrative like this and insert ourselves into the text. Which becomes an allegorical way of looking at it.
 - *We do not need to do that.*
 - **When we look at this text we must see God's Power on display, and not that WE can go out and defeat our giants.**
 - That's not the point. *The point of this text is that when we give God the chance to do the unthinkable in our lives, He can and will when we surrender to His power and glory.*
 - *Read 1st Samuel 17:1-30*

Question to Ask:

How can you and I give God a chance to do the unthinkable in our lives when we recognize and believe in His power?

Truth #1: An Unfathomable Situation. (V. 1-11)

- '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[a] cubits[b] 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[c] 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.'

- ***The fact that the Israelites were dealing with a real life giant, was an unfathomable situation, especially for our human minds.***

- In these first 11 verses, we focus more in on Saul, and the enemy that they had for this particular battle.

- There are **3** things to point out regarding the Unfathomable Situation that develops here...

- ***The Battle Begins. (V. 1-3)***

- '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.'
- It is impossible for us to know how soon the events of chapter 17 began after chapter 16.
 - ***But, it would have had to have been enough time for Saul to have changed his policy concerning David, which would have allowed David to go back home to Bethlehem.***
- It also allowed David to change significantly physically, but not long enough for him to have become old enough for military service.
 - ***The location that is given in these verses, would have been 8 miles east of Gath, 15 miles west of Bethlehem, and then two miles west of Socoh.***

- *The significance of this is that no free-flowing water existed here. And the Philistines were close to one of their major cities, which would have allowed them to have provisions.*
- There was a dry riverbed that was most likely separating the two camps, as well as a huge chasm of fear that was separating them physiologically, because of Goliath...
- *The Big man comes out. (V. 4-7)*
 - ‘And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six^[a] cubits^[b] 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^[c] 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.’
 - *Six Cubits and a span is equivalent to 9 feet and 9 inches today.*
 - This measure could refer to Goliath out of uniform, but that doesn’t really matter. Because he was huge.
 - In regard to Goliath’s height, we must be reminded of what God said to Samuel in chapter

16, verse 7 *‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature.’*

- In addition to his height, the writer of 1st Samuel tells us of his combat gear.
 - *At this time the Israelites would have wore the most basic clothing to battle according to 1st Samuel 13:22.*
- *Goliath was in metal from head to toe.*
 - All of the equipment that is described here in these verses were meant to cover his eight and his body. This would have reduced his ability to respond with quickness and agility in close combat.
 - Which shows that it was not expected that he would have to be involved in close combat, because he was that strong and mighty.
- Verses 4-7 is the longest description of military attire in the entire OT.
 - Robert D. Bergen said *‘Goliath’s physical stature, armor, weaponry, and shield bearer must have made him appear invincible.’*
- *The Belittling Starts. (V. 8-11)*
 - ‘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.’

- In verse 8, Goliath steps between two armies, and questions their willingness to fight to defend their own homelands.
 - *He also questions why they keep showing up and lining up if they aren't going to engage in combat.*
- In verse 9, Goliath lets them know the terms of how this was going to go.
 - *The results of the showdown were clear. The nation who had a dead soldier would become slaves for the nation who obtained victory.*
 - *Since Goliath is explaining this 1 on 1 combat, it insinuates it was the Israelites first time engaging in this. (this was a practice that seems to only be done by the Philistines).*
- In verse 10, Goliath defies Israel, the nation of God, which would have been blasphemous.

- In verse 11, we see the results of Goliath's belittling, they are terrified and they run away.

Truth #2: *The Unthinkable Son Shows up. (V. 12-18)*

- ‘Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years.[d] **13** The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. **14** David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul, **15** but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. **16** For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening. **17** And Jesse said to David his son, “Take for your brothers an ephah[e] of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. **18** Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them.”
- The narrator reintroduces us to David here, as Saul was the main subject of the first 11 verses.
 - *David will be the main subject for the rest of 1st Samuel 17.*
 - David was the youngest and it would be unthinkable to David's brothers that David would show up. Much less, come

on the battlefield and want to fight, as we will see later.

- I believe there are **3** things to point out regarding the unthinkable notion that the youngest son was going to show up...
- ***The Three Oldest go to fight. (V. 12-14a)***
 - ‘Now David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years.[d] **13** The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. **14** David was the youngest.
 - ***The mention that David was the son of an Ephraite would have been important to the original recipients.***
 - Ephrathah was a matriarch in the Judahite clan, and was the mother of Hur. She is an influential and founding figure of the town of Bethlehem, and was a relative of Jesse. (1st Chronicles 2:19 and 1st Chronicles 4:4).
 - ***Notice that Jesse only sends 3 of his sons to fight, when he has 8.***
 - There are 2 potential reasons as to why the three oldest went to war.

- ***#1: The other sons, David included, could have been under the age of 20. Which was the minimum age for military services according to Numbers 1:3.***

- ***#2: It's possibly that for this particular Philistine invasion only 3 sons were needed for military service.***

- Back in 1st Samuel 16:18, David was called a warrior by someone that knew him, but here he was denied the role and had to work as a delivery boy between home and the front lines (15 miles)

- ***The Time that had gone on. (V. 14b-16)***

- ‘The three eldest followed Saul, **15** but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. **16** For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.’
- The personality and spirit of David that we will get to know better as we continue in our study of 1st Samuel, probably was not happy that he had to go back and forth, instead of fighting in the battle.
 - For 40 days this had gone on...
 - ***What had gone on?***

- *What we find in 1st Samuel 17:8-10, was happening everyday, twice a day, for a total of 40 days.*
 - *Because a lot of time had gone on, this would have created a situation in the Israelite army where the army was strained for resources.*
 - They were probably very hungry because they had not planned to fight and be gone this long from their families.
 - One scholar said *‘This lengthy standoff also would have made life difficult for individual Israelite families since this event would have occurred during the spring or summer, when adult males would have been needed for agricultural chores.’*
 - The longer time went on, the more ALL of Israel would have to suffer.
- ***The Task of delivering Supplies. (V. 17-18)***
 - ‘And Jesse said to David his son, “Take for your brothers an ephah[e] of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. **18** Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them.”’

- *The details that the writer of 1st Samuel gives us here convey that this was a normal, ordinary and trivial task.*
 - *In battle, it was common for the families of soldiers to supply the rations for their relatives and for others in the ranks.*
- David was to deliver these items so that the family was supporting the sons in battle, but also so that David could check on his brothers, and bring back assurance to Jesse, their father.
 - *Notice that Jesse is not at all concerned about sending his young son on a 15 mile journey through the night, he seems to be much more concerned with the well being of his three oldest sons.*
- ‘Bring some token from them’ would have been a form of compensation that would have been given to families who helped the army’s expense account during the battle.

Truth #3: *The Unachievable Task Remains. (V. 19-24)*

- ‘Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. **20** And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. **21** And Israel and the Philistines drew up for

battle, army against army. **22** And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. **23** As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. **24** All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.’

- ***The daunting (and audible) task that the Israelites had to defeat was still in front of them.***

- Jesse had already told David that he wanted him to go and check on his brothers who were fighting, but he had not told him yet. Now in verse 19, it seems clear that David is given the directions by his father.
- Verse 19 also gives indication that Jesse thought they were in active combat, but as modern readers we know they were at a standstill at this point, and had been for 40 days (V. 16)
 - There are **2** things to point out regarding the Unachievable task that remained.

- ***Careful Care. (V. 20)***

- ‘And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry.’

- From Bethlehem to the valley of Elah, would have been about 15 miles, and David arrived at the camp of the Israelites early in the morning.
- ***It’s very subtle, but there is a strong compare and contrast here between David and Saul, yet again. This time the narrator chooses to pull out David’s vocation as a Shepherd.***

- ***David shows careful care in the flock that he was entrusted to, by securing a ‘keeper’ to take care of the flock while he did this mission.***

- Robert D. Bergen pointed out ‘*The inclusion of this subtle detail in the text highlights the fact that David was a ‘good shepherd’ a significant metaphorical image of a good leader.*’

- This also points to the comparing and contrasting of Saul and David.

- I believe an application that you and I can find here is that before God will take us to the ‘big tasks’, we’ve got to be faithful with the small tasks.

- In David’s case, finding someone to take care of the sheep in his absence.

- ***Do we take careful care with the ministries God has entrusted to us?***

- ***Consistent Confrontation. (V. 21-24)***

- ‘And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. **22** And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage

and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. **23** As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. **24** All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.’

- ***Each day the Israelite army would line up on the opposite side of the Philistine army, and Goliath would come out and wait for a challenger.***
 - At this point, it had been 40 days straight that this formality had gone on.
- ***David didn't know what to expect when he arrived. There was no way to know if his brothers were dead, or in active conflict, I doubt that he expected to find them in a standstill.***
 - I'm sure that when he greeted his brothers, it would have been more of an embrace than anything.
- ***Since David had gotten there early in the morning, he was able to lay his eyes on the man that was causing the entire army to tremble, Goliath.***
 - Robert D. Bergen brings out a good point when he said ‘David heard Goliath’s words, and perhaps for the first

time in his life he heard the Lord being ridiculed.’

- ***The words of Goliath really stick out to David.***
 - Even from an early age we see that David lived his life for the Lord in faith and dependence on Him.
 - To hear someone openly ridicule the God that David loved and then see all the men flee, really bothered him.
- ***It wouldn't be the reward that would motivate David to stand face to face against Goliath, it would be his love for the Lord.***

Truth #4: *The Unreachable Brother. (V. 25-30)*

- ‘And the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel.” **26** And David said to the men who stood by him, “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?” **27** And the people answered him in the same way, “So shall it be done to the man who kills him.” **28** Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, “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.” 29 And David said, “What have I done now? Was it not but a word?” 30 And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.’ 1st Samuel 17:25-30

- ***What we find here in these verses is that Saul thinks they need to fight Goliath instead of just giving themselves up to be slaves without a fight.***

- Now, the King (Saul), would not personally fight the giant, he did offer a pretty nice reward for anyone who would successfully kill Goliath.

- ***(Even if they did not kill Goliath there would be no chance for reward because if they didn't kill Goliath, Goliath would kill whoever went up against him).***

- ***What we find here is still very much in line with regular 'Saul-like' behavior that we have become well accustomed to in our study.***

- He's not willing to fight, he's not willing to do anything, but put up a reward to coerce someone into fighting Goliath.

- ***Saul is a great example of what not to do in leadership. True leaders are not cowards.***

- There are 2 things that we need to look at as we are introduced to the Unreachable brother.

- ***The Reward. (V. 25-27)***

- ‘And the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel.” 26 And David said to the men who stood by him, “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?” 27 And the people answered him in the same way, “So shall it be done to the man who kills him.”

- Saul isn't willing to fight, but he does seem to offer up a reward for anyone who is willing.

- ***Now, we must keep in mind that verse 25 is the talk of soldiers.***

- We don't hear from Saul himself on whether or not he truly promised this, but I would tend to believe that the talk of the soldiers is accurate.

- ***Saul isn't going to fight, he's a coward and he's desperate.***

- But, here is the reward that is rumored to be given for whoever can defeat Goliath:

- **Great Wealth.**
- **Marriage into Saul's family.**
- **Exemption from Taxes.**
 - Stephen J. Andrews said '**Saul's desperate lack of leadership is revealed in the extreme nature of the reward.**'
 - Saul has no control, and so much selfishness that it clouds his vision as a leader greatly.
- **In verse 26, we see that David overhears the conversation.**
 - Even here, we can see that David and Saul differ greatly.
 - Saul throws his resources and wealth at a problem, but David is greatly disturbed at the verbal rocks Goliath is throwing at the Israelites.
- David says this, 'For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?'
 - **David is disturbed that a Philistine, who was not circumcised and because of that, was outside of a covenant relationship with the Lord, would not just put shame on Israel, but on 'the armies of the living God'.**
- **In David's mind, since the Israelite army was composed of members of the Lord's covenant community, it wasn't just a verbal utterance against the soldiers, but against God.**
 - David is bold in the fact he has a spiritual mindsight and way of thinking.
- ***Word Study***
 - That word 'defy' comes from the Hebrew word '**Charaph**' **חָרַף** and it means to blaspheme.
- **We should take offense when others blaspheme our God, more than when we take offense if they blaspheme us.**
 - Often, this is not the case.
- **The Rebuke. (V. 28-30)**
 - '28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "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." 29 And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?" 30 And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.'

- *Eliab, the oldest son of Jesse, hears his brother's voice, and can't believe that he was down there.*
- *Why does Eliab get upset about the young David's concern for Israel's people and their God being openly blasphemed by a philistine?*
 - *In verse 28, I think we find what was bothering Eliab about his brother being there.*
 - *Everyone, including Eliab is afraid of Goliath, and tensions are no doubt high.*
 - So, Eliab accuses David of having a haughty and wicked heart that motivated him to abandon and leave behind the duties that his father had given him in taking care of the sheep, for the sake of watching others die in battle.
 - *While we know Eliab's accusation was wrong, this is what I believe was in Eliab's heart.*
- Scholars argue that the writer of 1st Samuel added this part of Eliab's words to David in the narrative to show how the Lord was right in rejecting Eliab as Israel's next king in 1st Samuel 16:7.
 - *Meaning that Eliab's heart was not right before the Lord.*

- *Robert D. Bergen said 'Eliab's harsh words against his younger brother also strengthen the parallels that exist between David and Joseph, a young man in the Torah who also experienced family criticism prior to saving the Israelites.'*
 - Among scholars there are questions regarding the translation of verse 29, *'And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?"*
- The NKJV translates David's response as 'Is there not a cause?'
- The NIV translates David's response as 'Can't I even speak?'
 - *When translating the Hebrew, I lean more towards this rendering of what David was saying:*
 - *'What have I done to offend you now?'*
- In verse 30, David turned away and continued to get more details about the situation of Goliath.
 - For tonight, this is as far as we go.
 - *Next Wednesday night we will be able to focus more in on the battle itself that David engages in and the conversation that led up to it.*

Conclusion:

- Although we weren't able to see it as much tonight, next week we will see even more to give God a chance.
 - *But even with the way that Eliab spoke to his brother, we must be reminded, to give God a chance no matter what.*
 - No matter the situation, heartache, valley, trial, tribulation or trouble. Give God a chance!
- **Truth #1: *An Unfathomable Situation. (V. 1-11)***
- **Truth #2: *The Unthinkable Son Shows up. (V. 12-18)***
- **Truth #3: *The Unachievable Task Remains. (V. 19-24)***
- **Truth #4: *The Unreachable Brother. (V. 25-30)***