

The Battles Before the Battle

June 2, 2024

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1 Samuel 17:22-40

Oak Community Church (PCA)

The Battles Before Goliath

- David hears blasphemy of Goliath, asks why this allowed^{26?}
- His own brother angry, belittles and accuses David²⁸
- Word spreads, David summoned before Saul³¹
- David speaks truth first³² - don't let your heart rule you
- Saul declares David unqualified - saw with only his eyes^{1S16:7}
- Goliath saw David as unworthy^{1S17:42}
- Saul should have remembered God's faithfulness...
- David declares God's faithfulness³⁵⁻³⁷ to him
- David shows how we should use past God's faithfulness to embolden our future faith!
- It is NOT about our strength, but God's strength
- God's ways are often different than we expect^{1Dan3:16-18}
- God often uses weak & broken to bring Himself glory^{1Cor1:27-29}
- God works through believer's faith for His purposes^{1Cor1:30-31}
- Be like David - be concerned for God's glory!

Saul Seeks to Help David

- If Saul believed David, he would have fought Goliath himself
- Saul had few options so he sends David for his passion
- Saul tries to prepare David with his own armor
- Was Saul - seeking to take credit - he used my armor?
- Was Saul - seeking to take authority - go in my armor?
- Surprisingly David tries Saul's armor, but that was in vain³⁹
- Lesson: *'the man of faith has no use for carnal weapons'*^{A.W.Pink}
- Wisely David put off Saul's armor, went as God prepared⁴⁰
- David later penned Psalm 3:1-3

Beware of Saul's Armor Today

- We usually don't fight giants today... however, we're easily tempted to use worldly methods rather than faith:
 - Need to seize political power so that we can implement godly laws for control
 - We seek to make the church attractive to outside forgetting God's ordinary means of grace
 - *"God has appointed for our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace what we call the ordinary means of grace - namely, the Word, prayer and the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and, necessarily joined to these, the church's discipline and care of souls."*^{TabletalkJune2020}

So What? Like David...

- Jesus had his readiness to serve as Messiah doubted by those around Him who simply looked with eyes^{Jn18:33,36}
- Jesus mission was to glorify God^{Jn17:1-5} first & foremost
- God's motivation in saving us: His glory^{Eph1:5-6,7-12}
- Jesus conquered a great enemy: Satan, sin & death!
- Like David He didn't use world's methods^{1Pt1:18-19}
- Even today, Jesus uses His powerful Word^{Rm1:16;Jn10:14,27-18}
- At the table to touch, feel & taste God's provision in faith!