

1 Samuel 17: 31 - 50 // Stand

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[0:00] Today we're going to be in 1 Samuel 17, verses 31-50. Thereabouts. And I'm not too sure why the Lord had a bit of a diversion from Matthew, but after CIY weekend I'll be getting back into Matthew.

We'll continue that. But 1 Samuel 17, verses 31-50 is a wonderful bookend from what we talked about last week with the anointing of David.

And what it means just for God to choose people based on his own heart and not what the world sees. And we continue that now. We have to be reminded sometimes of what's called Saul's armor. And we'll talk a bit about that. I was sharing earlier in class just how some of my greatest failures in life, both inside and outside of the church, have come when I've tried to imitate the success of other people.

Because we're just not all the same. You know, a buddy of mine who is, he's a pastor like me, but he's been in charge of many, many, many, many churches as a regional pastor in Canada.

[1:14] And when we were first meeting, he said, he gave me some advice that's kind of hung on for quite a while now. Because I was trying to be like other people.

I thought, well, if I'm going to be a pastor, I have to cut my hair, I have to do all, I have to look this part, right? And he said, dude, he says, you're a hippie. You've got to just be a hippie, okay? You've got to be exactly who the Lord has made you to be.

I've cleaned up a little since then. You're probably glad about that. But my point being is that don't try and wear Saul's armor, right? Don't try and do it. Be exactly who God has made you to be.

He has prepared you for the Goliaths in your life in a way that no other thing, no other person can. And he's prepared you through a thousand little acts, little obediences, little battles that you've had to fight along the way for some of the big ones we have to stare down.

So today we're going to hear about David's. Because Israel was in a place where they were terrified to send a man against Goliath. And I'm just realizing, Christy, I'm sorry I didn't allow you to read.

[2:20] I'm so sorry. In their fear, they chose to do nothing. For 40 days, the Philistines were there mocking, taunting, right?

Saying how bad the Israelites were. Where is this living God? Mocking them. And for 40 days, Saul's army went to the battle line and then retreated again.

Back and forth. 40 days. Imagine how demoralizing that would be when your leader decided they were just going to shrink back. You wanted to fight. You knew you may not win, but you were just passionate.

You were going to be there. Maybe you had to be there. And your leader just kept retreating. And then out of nowhere, David comes along. And by this time, he was still a young kid.

And he comes along and says, who's going to do something about this? First person in 40 days to say anything courageous. Who's going to do something about this? And it's much looking at the army of Israel as he is looking at the Philistines, who are not afraid of the living God.

[3:29] And David came to task. He was never, David never said he was going to fight and kill Goliath. He just simply said, somebody ought to do something.

And sometimes that's the first step of courage is looking around and saying, somebody's got to do something about this. Maybe you're called to be the one. We had somebody years ago tell us, if you see it, you own it.

And I think there's some truth to that. If you see someone on the side of the road, pull over and help them. Okay? I had that experience this week.

The tire on the church van. I was out on a mission. That thing exploded like a grenade, you know? And I pull over to the side of the road and I'm under there because I'm thinking I'm born in a cold,

emotionally cold country.

Right? Nobody helps anybody up there. And I'm under this van and all of a sudden, I mean, there were three trucks. Kyle was one of them. That were descended upon this van and people held to the point where I had some guys I'm pretty sure were saying some not very nice things in Spanish. [4:34] But I think one of them was get out of the way. And so all I can say is that that tire was replaced. It was done. I was sent off on my way with a pat on the back.

And we knew it was amazing. I know how to change a tire. And I kind of felt like this help was so beautiful. I had to just kind of watch it all happen. I did my part.

Got my bruises. Right? But there was something beautiful about that, about doing it together. He knew, David, that the battle belonged to the Lord.

Verses 31-32. What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. David said to Saul, let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine.

Your servant will go and fight for him. I mean, Saul had been waiting for over a month to hear those words. I will go. He'd been waiting desperately to hear this.

[5:32] I will go. But not from this kid. That part didn't make sense to Saul. And yet, that's exactly where this word came from. Verse 33. Saul replied, you are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him.

You are only a young man. And he has been a warrior from his youth. So Paul pointed out two reasons why this wouldn't work. Goliath was extremely experienced at war.

David was not. Now, this was Saul's way of thinking. I can't help but think of all of the years where David was a shepherd boy.

As we learned last week, there was this sense that David was the nameless youngest. Right? He wasn't even named at that time. Samuel had to say, no, no.

We're not going to do anything until your youngest has come in from the flocks. And let me see him. And the Lord anointed him in that moment. This young guy, who was not well regarded at home, was anointed to be king of Israel.

[6:33] Beautiful, beautiful moment. And it was all of these little moments of stargazing. Writing songs. The Lord doing the work of the shepherd in David's heart.

Training him to be who he needed to be for this battle. Lions came. Bears came. And with each battle, with each experience, the courage and the boldness grew within David.

To the point where I truly believe by the time he got to Goliath, that battle was already won. Before he even shot the sling. Because his confidence in what the Lord had done was so very real.

He would have had so many hours of just sitting there. And I asked the discipleship group earlier. It's like, you know, I'm sure we've all had moments where we've been in stasis. Where we've been waiting.

And maybe even asked the question, Lord, what are you doing? What's going on? Why am I forced to wade through all of this? And David is here, if you could imagine.

[7:35] And he's got this sling. I have seen this shot in the Valley of Elah where this battle takes place with the rocks from the ground. I've seen this in action.

And it is something to behold. Now, if you haven't seen it, I highly recommend you YouTube it.

Okay? It's not a slingshot. It's this long, long sling made out of leather.

And there's this weight to it. And the shoulders put into it. I won't do it here because I'm really big and awkward. But I'll just say that there's a spin. It's almost like a dance. And he hops on one foot, twists around, and fires and cracks that thing.

And it sounds like a shot from a gun. And I can imagine David doing this. There's an apple and that tree. I can hit that. There's a branch that's falling off in that tree.

I can hit that. And all of these little things are bringing him in practice to that moment where he faces Goliath. And everybody thought this huge nine-foot-tall Philistine was impossible.

[8:37] And I'm sure David just looked at it and said, look at the size of the guy's head. I can hit that. Right? Massive target. But God had already been building the courage in David through a thousand little battles with apples and twigs and all kinds of things, with lions and bears.

The battle was already won by the time David got to the battlefield simply because of his faith. And his courage in what God had already done. He knew. He knew there was a living God in Israel.

God can use you and me for his plan, regardless of our age. Doesn't matter how young you are.

Doesn't matter how old you are. God is not finished with you until he's embracing you in heaven.

Think about that. One of the things Crawford and I were talking about was tombstones. And I never actually said what I wanted on mine. And it's just under construction. Because I think we're all a work of art.

We're all a work of the Lord until that moment when we're free and we're home. Right now, we have work to do. It doesn't matter how old, how young we are. We have work to do.

[9:52] God rarely calls us to fight. But he always calls us to stand. I had a dream once. And I believe it was from the Lord. And this was just simply that I was standing against this giant.

And I was actually like this to his knees. And I remember saying it. And Lord, I can't win this. I can't fight this. I'm going to get stomped on.

And the Lord just simply said, I didn't call you to fight. I called you to stand. The fight is mine. Right? We're called to stand. Stand before the giants.

Let the Lord fight the battle. Because if we have the courage and the faith like David, that battle is already over. And it's already been won by all of the little victories that he's shown us in the past. Verses 34 to 37. But David said to Saul, your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it, and rescued the sheep from its mouth.

[10:56] Wow. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair. Imagine that. Okay? Now, I've been around bears for a good part of my life. I don't want to seize them by the hair. Well, that's just foolish, right?

But David had not much courage. Incredible. Amazing. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear. The uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them.

Because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine. Saul said to David, go and the Lord be with you.

David knew something. He knew that God's power was real. Saul, I think, believed that God was a concept.

Whereas David knew God in relationship. There's an enormous difference between the two. We can get stuck in that mode as well. Well, God is a concept.

[11:58] He's just a part of something bigger. The world will tell us that our God is dead. We'll hear all of these lies at any given day.

But our God is alive and well. And in Revelation 1, it says there's the throne in heaven and it is occupied. That means something.

The God of David who helped him encourage all of these things against the lion and the bear, against Goliath. That same God is our God who loves us as he loved David.

We can be friends of God just like David was a friend of God. Saul didn't choose that. He chose the world. And David chose the relationship.

A lion came and David took a stone and hit the lion in the head and saved the sheep. A bear came and bears are awesome and powerful creatures. I've seen them do some damage to trees and all kinds of things.

[12:59] Garbage cans, you name it. And David didn't fear them. A boy doesn't take on a lion and a bear without the miraculous power of God.

And David knew what it was like to have God work powerfully in his life. One of the many things I love about this church is I bet you we could spend a month from Sundays just sitting around telling about all of the wonderful things God has done in the lives of the people here.

I don't think we would have time on one Sunday, let alone a month of them, to be able to go through all of the miraculous things that God has done in the lives of everybody here.

That is proof that our God is real. He is alive. The God of David is our God too. And whatever Goliaths we face, he's fighting that battle. And he's calling us to stand and believe.

There is no power, no principality. There is nothing, no government, no evil that could ever rival the power of God. Period. There is a throne in heaven and it is occupied.

[14:06] And it means something to us. It should. God had worked to prepare David through the lion and the bear. And this is always God's pattern in our lives if we look at it.

He doesn't just send us to a Goliath to overwhelm us. If we look back, we're going to see little things that prepared us for the Goliaths in our lives. Little things that remind us of how much he loves us.

Of the faith that we can have in him that is rock solid. Not temporary, but eternal. There's things that the Lord has done for us that we can tell other people and say, look how great our Lord is.

He's amazing. So whatever is in front of us, let's take that on and stand in front of it with that same knowledge of what's come before. We learned to trust him.

And I found that he gives us more as we learn to lean on him for those victories. I know the victories that I've had in the past that were not my own.

[15 : 14] But the Lord delivered me one way or another. I know those victories. And so when I come up against something, I try then you use them as a filter. Well, Lord, I know you'll never leave me or forsake me.

You said that in your word. I know that you're with me to the very end of the age. You say that in your word. You call the disciples. You said, go. And I went. And I know, Lord, that you're behind me. And it doesn't matter what Goliath is in front of me. I'm going to learn a lesson. And it won't be by fighting through my prowess or understanding. It will be by getting out of your way. The Lord will fight our battles.

He fought this battle for David through a lot of years of prep and David's faith and courage in him. Because when it was time to protect the sheep, David went out with full confidence in God.

Killed the lion and the bear. Grabbed him by the fur. Man, that's amazing to think about. Verse 36. Our servant has killed both the lion and the bear. Here, this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them.

[16 : 19] Because he has defied the armies of the living God. David didn't think he was going to put on a good show. He didn't think he was going to go up there and do this kind of little pirouette, spit, crack of the whip thing.

It wasn't about that. It was never about that. He wasn't going up there to give it a try. It wasn't like one of these like, you know, well, it's a good day to die. That was not David's attitude.

He went up there knowing that this giant was going down. He had that kind of faith. There was no maybe in him. He knew this giant would fall.

And that's how he approached. He didn't know it at the time, but when he was a shepherd, God was working in his life, preparing him for this moment. And when we are in that same time of preparation, we usually have no idea what it is God is preparing us for.

If you feel right now like you're tending sheep and you're out there and you're just wondering, God, what are you doing? He might be preparing you for the next Goliath in your life.

[17 : 22] Don't waste the time with resentment. Don't waste that time by just being bored. Spend the time getting to know him, reading the Psalms, understanding the heart of David, being a friend of God, being close to him.

Learning of his victories, learning of all that God has for you and me and his promises in the word. Let the word soak into our lives. Let it mold our lives to be more like Jesus day by day.

And in that waiting, we are built to be like the fearless boy that David was. And when the time of battle comes, just stand and stand your ground.

Verses 37. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine. Saul said to David, go and the Lord be with you.

David had no doubt. This wasn't a guess. This wasn't a presumption. David had an assurance in his heart from God. We could look at what David said and what he did and think, prideful young guy.

[18 : 32] Or was it just really assurance in the living God and the power of God our Lord? That's what I choose to think. Because God will deliver you and me too.

He will deliver us from the battlefields. He'll deliver us from the Goliaths. And God has promised a way home to heaven. And he made that way home real through Jesus dying on the cross.

He will deliver you. We will be saved. Romans 10.9. And we said this the last day of BBS. Those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and rose again will be saved.

It is that simple. And I've said it a million times. I'll say it again. When I find a good restaurant, I want to tell everybody. I mean, this food is great.

It's really good. If Jesus is Lord of your heart, you can't help yourself but say, man, God is good. It's the same thing. That's all it is.

[19 : 32] If you believe so wholeheartedly in your heart that you can say it with your mouth, you're saved. I'm sorry I can't make it more complicated or religious. That's it. The life of the disciple, the

life of walking on a Christian, to become a friend of God as David is, yeah, that takes time.

But the road to the cross is easy because Jesus paid the price for us to go there. God may deliver you from trials. He may deliver you in the middle of them.

He may deliver you before you even know they're coming. But God will deliver you. David had that kind of assurance. Verse 38.

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him, a bronze helmet on his head. See, God was real to David. The relationship was real to David.

But Saul was thinking of something else. Saul was thinking of like a warrior. In order to go to war, you have to put on the armor of war. Here you go, son. But David was like, this isn't me.

[20:38] This doesn't fit. I haven't tested this. It isn't going to work. He was trained as a shepherd to fight off the darkness and difficulty of the world as a shepherd.

He had to use the armor of a shepherd, which is nothing. The staff, the crook, the rod, these things, the sling. This is what David was familiar with.

If you're going to face a giant, you better armor up and make a good show of it. This is what Saul was thinking. And Saul was a big guy. David was young. At this point, this age, roughly between the ages of 15 and 22, we just said to hustle them off to see IY.

Right? These kids who were off to learn how to slay giants by getting to know and be a friend of God. God and his armor were more real to David than Saul's armor ever was.

God's armor was real. The armor didn't fit David physically, but it also didn't fit him spiritually. And I hate to say it, it's not going to fit you and me either. The spiritual armor David was relying on could have been Saul's armor too.

[21:58] It could have been his armor as well. He chose not to wear that armor of God. And I'm talking about Ephesians 6, verses 10 to 18. I'll read it here.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day. And having done all to stand firm. Stand, therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

And as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

Not some. All. All. Important little word there. And take the helmet of salvation and the word of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

[23:10] Praying at all times in the Spirit with all power and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. Saul was unwilling to wear this armor.

Remember, David had been wearing this armor for years as a boy against all of these difficulties. Against all of the boredom. Being lost in the sense of not being considered by his family as his eldest, Eliab, was.

He was not a bad guy at all. He just wasn't chosen. A lot of times we try to imitate the successes of others. And we fight with someone else's armor on.

Imagine if David, again, I have no reason to believe that Eliab and David didn't love one another as brothers. Imagine, though, if Eliab came along and said, you've got to listen to Saul, buddy.

You've got to wear this armor. You're going to fail. Right? And imagine if David tried. No, David knew that the armor he needed was the spiritual armor of God.

[24:14] Nothing more. Because he knew that the battles that had already been fought and had already been won in the past. This one was going to be no different. And David believed that.

Verses 39 to 40.

David fastened on the sword over the tunic and tried walking around because he was not used to them. I cannot go in these, he said to Saul, because I'm not used to them. So he took them off.

Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag, and with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

So why the five stones? It's a bit of a trivia thing. A lot of people argue over stupid things when it comes to stuff like this. But this is the most common thought. Goliath had four brothers.

And David was hedging his bets. Right? I'm going to take five stones just in case the other four come at me. Right? So, otherwise that's kind of useless information. But a lot of people say this about the spiritual armor that God gives us.

A lot of people will try to wear both. Well, I'm going to armor up like Saul, and I'm going to put on the spiritual armor of God. That doesn't work like that. We can't be in a place of standing in front of the giants saying, I'm going to live in full faith.

[25 : 30] But, man, I'm going to just protect myself, and I'm going to wear all of the right armor. I'm going to look the part of a warrior. Sometimes what we need to be is to look like foolishness to the world.

David looked like foolishness to the world. But he knew that his power was not coming from this world. It was coming from God. The living God. David was going to rely on the tools that God had used in his life before this moment.

David could have done all he had done up until now. Said the bold words. Renounced Saul's armor. Gathered the stones. But if he never went into battle, it wouldn't have meant a thing.

He had to make that decision with his heart to go to battle. So, David had the faith not just to talk the talk. He had the faith to walk it out. And to walk up.

And actually run. Verses 41-49. I'll close soon after that. Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

[26 : 34] He looked David over, and he saw he was little more than a boy. Glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, Am I a dog that you come at me with sticks?

And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. Come here, he said. And I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals. David said to the Philistine, You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves, for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands. 15 to 22 year old person.

Just keep that in mind. That was one of the boldest things you can hear. This is not spoken by someone who thinks he's going to run away and have someone save him. This is someone who's standing against Goliath, knowing his God has already won the battle.

[27 : 48] This is how we need to enter into our own battles. Physical, emotional, spiritual. God has already won this battle. Stand and let him finish. Let him do his job.

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line. I love this. David didn't just fight. He could have just sat there, but he ran to the battle line. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it, struck the Philistine on the forehead, and the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

Goliath is angry at the insult that David was. Who am I? Who am I? You ever heard anybody say, do you know who I am? It's one of the funniest things anybody could ever say to me.

Do you know who I am? I don't care who you are. Right? And David's like, I don't care who you are. Right? You're just a nine-foot guy. Been there, done that. Who cares? Anyway.

Come, little guy, and I'll rip you apart. Goliath used fear and intimidation, and it meant nothing to David. Our enemy, the devil, used fear and intimidation, and it should mean nothing to us.

[29 : 00] Because of the power of our great God. Goliath had tried to curse the God of Israel. Huge mistake. David was so bold that he said he wasn't only going to kill Goliath, he was going to feed Goliath's army to the birds and the beasts of the field.

And he was also careful to say that the Lord will deliver. This wasn't David coming up and saying, Hey, buddy, I got like, you know, 100% marksmanship here.

You better watch out. Right? No. David was saying, The Lord will deliver. Because it is the Lord who delivers. He becomes very famous after this battle. But he never went into it for the fame.

Not once. He wanted all the earth to know that there was a God in Israel. A living God. Do you know who else needed to know there was a living God in Israel?

Anyone want to take a guess? Israel. Israel needed to know there was a living God in Israel. 40 days, they came to the battle line and retreated. Back and forth, back and forth.

[30:03] Israel needed to know there was a living God in Israel. And it took one young guy to remind both sides that God is alive and well. There is a throne in heaven and it is occupied.

Verse 48, And the Philistine moved closer to attack and David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. David didn't hide. He did not run away. And he did not drop to his knees in prayer. Though I would respect that, that's not what he did. because there's times where we need to act as well. Some people will ask me, well, do I let God fight my battles or do I have to fight? And the answer is, yes, both. There are some things that we will need to do, sure. Taking a relationship, becoming a friend of God, that takes work. You can't just walk up like we were, you know, in grade four and, or sorry, four years old and somebody's near you and say, want to be my best friend?

Okay. It doesn't work like that. Not anymore. Right? To be a friend of God, it takes work. There are things we need to do. Spending time in his word daily.

[31:08] Getting to know his heart for situations, his heart for the world. Seeing through his eyes, becoming his friend. This is what David did in all of those times in the pasture.

In all of those times tending sheep, David was becoming a friend of God and you and I can be too. David knew that the Lord was using him with the training and tools that he had been given as a shepherd.

And a lot of us struggle right here because we spend our whole lives asking the question, should God do it or should I do it? You can't do all that David did when you're paralyzed by fear.

That rant, declaration, maybe a better word, that he gave. How dare you? You come against the living God of Israel and he will deliver this in this day.

And he ran to the battle line. You can't do that if you're paralyzed by fear. What does our enemy want us to do? Be paralyzed by fear. No.

[32:16] Stand. But I'm imperfect. I have sin in my life. Yep. Confess it. Be forgiven. Stand. But I haven't got the training. I don't know what to do.

I'm timid. Yep. Stand. Stand anyway. But I haven't done this kind of thing before and this Goliath is so huge.

David hadn't faced a Goliath before. He'd faced other things before. Chances you have too. So stand. Stand. Those moments when David was alone with God, in the Judean wilderness, being faithful in the small things, that's where this battle with Goliath was truly won.

By the time he got there, as I said, battle was over. We read that and we teach it in Sunday school like it was a mighty battle and it was. But if we look at it closely enough, we'll realize that when David started trusting in the Lord and he looks up at the stars, what is man that you think of us? The battle of Goliath was over. Right there. I will trust in you, Lord, over myself, my training, anything I think I bring to the table which isn't much.

[33:30] I will trust in you, Lord. The battle of Goliath was already over. Right there. Right then. So when God has an enemy in your way, sin, temptation, whatever it is, cut it down.

You know, one of the funny things of the verses you could read beyond this is that David not only cut off Goliath's head, he took it with him to Jerusalem. I always thought that was a funny little detail and I don't know, like, you know, I mean, I know people mount stuff on their walls but it's like, that's a weird trophy, right, to drag around but he took it with him to Jerusalem.

I can't help but think that might have inspired some what happened out there questions. Right? Do not wear Saul's armor. You were created to be exactly who you are right now.

You can't wear someone else's armor. Someone may have had success in one area and it's great and you can learn from it but it's not your success. The Lord has something specific for you.

He's been training you in your life through all of those little battles that you came from killing lions and bears and wolves and whatever else it's been so that the Goliath that you come to you will be ready for because nobody else can fight that battle but you.

[34:47] So don't wear somebody else's armor. Don't wear Saul's armor. The only armor we need is the armor, the spiritual armor from Ephesians that I read earlier. Have the confidence David had because the battle belongs to the Lord.

Let's pray.