

God's Underdogs (David): Facing Your Giants

1 Samuel 16 & 17

1. Your **failures** are not **final**.

📖 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7 (NIV) "The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." . . . ⁶ "When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

📖 1 Samuel 16:11 (NIV) "So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

📖 Acts 13:22 (NLT) "...God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.'"

2. Your **giants** may be **familiar**.

📖 1 Samuel 17:4 (NIV) "A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall."

📖 1 Samuel 17:8–11 (NIV) "Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified."

📖 1 Samuel 17:16 (NIV) "For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand."


3. Your **support** might be **limited**.


📖 1 Samuel 17:17–23 (NIV84) "Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. ¹⁸ Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. ¹⁹ They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."²⁰ Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it."

📖 1 Samuel 17:24–31 (NIV) "When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear. ²⁵ Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."²⁶ David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"²⁷ They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."²⁸ When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking


with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”²⁹ “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?”³⁰ He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.³¹ What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.”


4. Your **situation** is your **preparation**.

 1 Samuel 17:32–37 (NIV) “David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”³³ Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth.”

 1 Samuel 17:34–37 (NIV) “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,³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.³⁷ The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

5. Your **giants** need to be **faced**.

 1 Samuel 17:40–44 (NIV) 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.⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him.⁴³ He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.⁴⁴ “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”

 1 Samuel 17:45–50 (NIV) “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.⁴⁶ This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.⁴⁷ 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.”⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.”

Name your GIANT: Is it bills that you can’t pay, people you can’t please, habits you can’t break, failures you can’t forget, or a future you can’t face? Is your giant the same giant that your parents fought? What was the key to David’s success? Pastor Mike made the observation that David made 9 direct references to God and only 2 references to Goliath—does that allude to anything significant? When David focused on himself, HE FELL. When David focused on God, HIS GIANTS DID. —Could the same be said of you?

