

# **After God's Heart**

## Lesson 2

1 Samuel 17:1-58

January 13, 2019

## **Taking Your Goliaths Down**

### **Introduction**

In this story, we reach a pivotal moment not only in the stories of Saul and David but for the nation of Israel. The potential cost to both the Philistine army and the Israelite army is enormous if they are defeated. As a result, both sides are in a standoff, waiting for the other to blink.

The Philistines make the first move by sending out their champion, Goliath. This is an ancient practice where two sides, instead of enduring great loss of life in their military forces, would send out a champion to fight the other to determine which army ultimately won. Goliath is sent out for the Philistines, but an Israelite hero is nowhere to be found.

It took David great courage to volunteer, but he stood up because of his great passion for the glory of his God, and not to see Goliath defame His glory.

***Memory verse: "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?"—1 Samuel 17:26***

Pray and read 1 Samuel 17:1-58. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

## What does the passage say?

1. How were the battle lines drawn between the two armies? (1 Samuel 17:1-3)
2. How is Goliath described? (1 Samuel 17:4-7)
3. Who is Goliath ultimately defying? (1 Samuel 17:9, 26, 36, 43)
4. What is the response of Israel upon hearing Goliath's challenge to them? (1 Samuel 17:11)
5. What is David's response when he hears the same challenge? (1 Samuel 17:32-37, 45-47)
6. How do David's brothers and Saul react when they hear David wants to accept Goliath's challenge? (1 Samuel 17:28-33)
7. Did the Philistines follow through on Goliath's part of the bargain and become Israel's servants? What did they do instead? (1 Samuel 17:51-53)

## What does the passage mean?

1. David had great courage to defend the glory of his God. In what ways can we as Christians have the courage to defend the glory of God in our day? (Joshua 1:9; Matthew 9:2, 10:18-20; 2 Corinthians 4:7)
  
2. In 1 Samuel 17:43 the author says that Goliath “cursed David by his gods.” What is meant here is that Goliath cursed David by David’s gods. How does God typically respond to those who actively defy Him? (Isaiah 3:8-9; Jeremiah 48:42, 50:29) What about those, like David, who seek to obey Him? (John 14:23, Romans 2:7)
  
3. Why did David’s brothers and Saul try and talk David out of confronting Goliath? What do we as Christians do when people question why we continue to preach the Gospel? (Acts 4:18-20, 5:29; Galatians 2:20)

4. Why do people tend to fear the reactions of people or the circumstances of our world rather than fearing God? What is the Christian response to fear? (Psalm 23:4; Matthew 10:28-31; 1 John 4:18)

### **Applying the Passage**

1. In the past, how have you acted out in fear in either not sharing your faith with someone you know, or not choosing to live for God in a world that is against Him? What are some ways that you could remedy that issue and be able to stand firm for the Lord in the future?

2. Goliath met a sticky end when He defied God. Those of us who have put our faith in Christ have each one of our sins past, present, and future all covered by the blood of Christ. However, God still calls us to act in obedience towards Him. What are some ways that you have subtly (or not-so-subtly) acted in disobedience toward God? (Remember, confessing, and repenting of your sin is key to a close relationship with Jesus).

3. Write out a prayer in response to what you have learned from this lesson.