

1 Samuel 17 Homiletical Outline

➤ Metaphor

- Inspirational – Hebrews 11
- Sports, Social struggles, Malcolm Gladwell
- Preachers want the same
 - Practical
 - Armour weighing you down? River – stones – giants in your life?
 - Easy to see the wrong questions, harder to answer the right ones
 - What does this tell us?
 - What is God doing?
 - Are we in the story?

In this passage we get to watch as God uses His select champion to save His people. In this passage God's people are afraid, looking at the dangers before them. This has meaning for today as we see the world we live in fraught with spiritual danger. The temptation to sin is all around us. The temptation to lose our faith in God and in the victory He secured for us.

To help us with this, we have a wonderful story, and the purpose of this passage is to communicate to us that: **Because God's champion won the victory, we need not cower in fear.**

To demonstrate this purpose we will have three considerations this morning **1. The Cursed Challenger, 2. The Chosen Champion, 3. The Conquering Cheer.**

The Cursed Challenger

- Verse 1-2: Israelites & Philistines battle in valley of elah,
 - Stalemate
 - Solution in verse 8
 - Champion warfare
 - Common in Greece, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Arab world
 - One person represents the whole body
- One man is called to represent the people
 - Champion warfare natural choice for Philistines
 - Goliath - 10 ft tall, spearhead 15 lbs, armour 125 lbs
 - Killing machine – trained, effectively done
 - Single most dangerous enemy to ppl for God since Garden
 - Pinnacle of Genesis 3:15
- Not Saul. Verse 11
 - Ch. 10: taller
 - Overcome by fear
 - ~ seek God, looks at Goliath in a human way
 - We do as well
 - Spiritual warfare
 - Inside ourselves
 - Anger, Alcohol, Gossip, Lying to get approval, Pride in Intelligence
 - 'how God made me'
 - Really – 'I give up'
 - Too strong, cant fight anymore
 - Giving in to power of sin
- That's what we see in Goliath **Cursed Challenger**,
 - Flesh and blood representative of the Seed of the Serpent
 - Satan and his forces tempt us to give up,
 - We would, if not for **Chosen Champion**

The Chosen Champion

- Saul shrinks back, God's **chosen champion** doesn't
 - **Picked** in ch. 16

- **Placed** – now see why
 - Serving Saul – goes back from time to time
- Verse 24 – scatter
 - David shocked
 - Verse 26
 - Faith is not subject to fear
 - Perspective
 - Goliath is an uncircumcised nothing
- We skip this phrase, but shouldn't
 - Circumcision was essential in old covenant
 - Genesis 17 – sign of everlasting covenant
 - Sign symbol of faithfulness
 - Baptism as well
 - 1 pet 3 – flood a type (picture) of baptism
 - Salvation for those with faith
 - Judgement for those who reject
 - Goliath, uncircumcised, fit for God's judgement
 - David recognized – victory
 - No game, real life and death
 - By faith David knew given victory
- Brothers hinder verse 28
 - Peter in Matt 16
 - no clue what Jesus came for, how eternally significant it was
- Confident says same thing before Saul
 - Knows he will defeat Goliath
- How can he know? God tell him?
 - Already performed amazing feats
- Knew he was **chosen champion**. Picked, placed, defend God's ppl

Conquering Cheer

- Saul help, armour
 - Human nature, make it work.
 - David could have said
 - Breastplate's hangs
 - Helmet's big
 - Shin guards loose
 - BUT IT'S GOLIATH!
 - Doesn't, God will protect
- So sure? Why 5 stones? Why not just one?
 - Pouch held 5 stones.
 - Trusting God is not an excuse to not prepare
 - David knew he would be victorious
 - Made the natural preparations
- Two step onto battlefield
 - V. 43 – **challenger** comes **cursing the chosen champion**
- Foolish?
 - Sling vs Goliath, Shotgun vs. Tank. Barehanded vs. Wild Animals
 - Foolishness is how God works
 - 1 Cor 1:27
 - God will use foolishness to bring this boaster down
- Not a magical shot
 - Chose slingshot b/c he knew what he could do
 - Seed of the Woman crushes Seed of the Serpent and cuts off head
- Maybe see what the story is saying

- Whose armour...? Where find river...?
- Problem is: these are focused on me, you; what we can do.
- **We're not David, not supposed to be**
 - Not the chosen champion equipped for task defeat Goliath
 - Likewise not chosen to defeat Satan
 - Christ was!
- Rev 17: 12-14
 - Christ called to defeat sin, death hell, dominion Satan
- Who are we, then?
 - Soldiers of Israel, waiting for saviour
 - Too weak, that's OK, God provided
 - As David did, so Christ
- So, now what?
 - V. 51-2
 - Victory leads to celebration
 - They run forward to claim what was won
 - Victory = no more fear
 - What about us?
 - Celebrate!
 - Tell what saviour did
 - Set free, no fear.
- Those who believe – Stand behind Champion, hope
 - Those who don't, story is not happy
 - Ruler crushed, only fear; no safety, only destruction
 - Not a valley separating you from us
 - Christ has broken down barriers
 - No one ever turned aside
 - Stand behind him with us, only believe, share victory
 - Believe, be Baptized, come through judgement
- Hope in Romans 8:
 - Point of the passage
 - Battle is won
 - Christ broken power of sin, it does not reign over us
- 2 Tim 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace – for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- Have confidence, have hope and joy, love one another, be self-controlled. As those called chosen and faithful, this is what you have been freed for. Do these boldly, because Christ has won the victory.