

# Goliath Must Fall pt. : Demoralized

*-Demoralized: having lost confidence or hope; disheartened*

## Intro Middle School Basketball:

- in 8th grade I played on our middle school basketball team & one day we played this team who was the conference champions almost every year
- we got to their gym and we were amazed at how nice it was
- we warmed up and did our drills right before the game
- when we finished all the sudden the lights flashed and the song **2 legit to quit came on a sound system**
- the whole gymnasium is cheering and dancing,,, and the players come dancing out of the locker room
- They are passed a ball one at a time and they sprint down court and do a layup
- most of these MIDDLE SCHOOLERS are in the 6 ft tall neighborhood
- many are slapping the backboard as they do their layups
- Then it happened ,, ,timed just right the last player comes out and the song says QUIT,,,, he SLAM DUNKS A BASKETBALL,,,, and the crowd goes ballistic

**-at that moment our whole team just looked at each other and started for the bus.....**

**-We were completely demoralized before the game even started.**

- we knew we had no chance against this team
- just like the Philistines they had a giant.....

## **-Who can remember a time when you felt demoralized?**

- a task lay in front of you and you felt you had no chance of succeeding, but you cannot get out of it

*-1 Samuel 17: 1- ff. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore bronze scale-armor weighing one hundred twenty-five pounds. 6 He had bronze plates on his shins, and a bronze scimitar hung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was as strong as the bar on a weaver's loom, and its iron head weighed fifteen pounds. His shield-bearer walked in front of him. 8 He stopped and shouted to the Israelite troops, "Why have you come and taken up battle formations? I am the Philistine champion, and you are Saul's servants. Isn't that right? Select one of your men, and let him come down against me. 9 If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your slaves, but if I overcome him and kill him, then you will become our slaves and you will serve us. 10 I insult Israel's troops today!" The Philistine continued, "Give me an opponent, and we'll fight!" 11 When Saul and all Israel heard what the Philistine said, they were distressed and terrified. vs. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.*

**-Saul and his soldiers were so demoralized that they were incapable of fighting.**

- they were disheartened ,, , they had lost all confidence and hope
- They were demoralized

## **After being defeated by the same issue over and over, we end up**

### **Demoralized.**

-Maybe, you have slipped away humiliated again after another FIT of RAGE, and you said you were going to do better, but when your emotions get going you are like Saul's soldiers.

-how many times have you decided that THAT was THE LAST TIME, you are not falling for that again,,,,,,,,, but here we are?

-80 times in 40 days those soldiers were humiliated and then sat around HATING THEMSELVES for being SO WEAK!

-I am sure that every time after they told themselves,,,, NO MORE

-tomorrow I am doing it,, I AM FACING GOLIATH

**-then tomorrow came and they folded even faster than before**

-There was this guy named the Apostle Paul, one of the greatest Jesus followers to ever live.

-EVEN PAUL could relate to Being Demoralized by failure

-Romans 7:14-15 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do

-So many of us hate our giants, and we wish it were not part of our lives; but then we cannot imagine that there is anything we can do to be different.

-we feel stuck

-Some of us have long since given up any hope of freedom, and we are just looking to make the best of our slavery.

-we begin to think in terms of mitigating the damage our giant causes, rather than eliminating the giant

**-So many of us have long since given up on the ideas of Freedom, Blessing, or Victory, and we have turned our fight toward the most palatable version of slavery possible.**

### **The soldiers were right, Goliath WAS stronger.**

-Its not just that he was big. Goliath was a killing machine:

-there is a reason it gives all those descriptions: -his bronze helmet -his coat of armor.

-his bronze leg guards. -the person carrying a huge riot shield in front of him

*(the only hope against a foe like that is archers,,, but he is almost completely defended against an archer, your only approach would be to come at him)*

-so you must attack him with a sword or a spear

**-but Goliath's spear is 12-15 feet long and his arms reach about 4 feet without even taking a step,,,,, so he can kill you with his spear from 19 feet away**

*-you are not even close enough to kill his armor bearer and he can already kill you*

-if you manage to kill his armor bearer and get past his spear, you still have to worry about his sword

**-his sword would have been at least 6 1/2 ft long, so with his arm reach he could kill you with his sword while you were still 12 feet away**

*-if he were fit Goliath probably weight 8-900 pounds*

*-all the weights given were about 3xs standard weight,,, so it stands to reason that Goliath was about 3xs as strong as the average man*

-If a 900 pound man swung a 15 pound sword at you, even if you blocked it with a shield, the impact would probably disable you and the second blow would kill you.

**-If the only 2 factors are you and Goliath, there really is no chance.**

**—If your hope is that you are going to finally figure it out and get strong enough to beat your giant, then you have no hope.**

-Many of us have been losing to our Giants for years or even decades.

*-we cannot even count the number of battles we have lost*

*-that is why we are so demoralized*

*-that is why we have just come to accept it and try to mitigate the damage*

-It is not cowardice or weakness to admit that you are not big enough to defeat your goliath.

*-facing reality is the first step to moving forward*

**-If there is no strength in me that can do this; Is there a strength outside of me that can be applied?**

*-when you start asking that question you are finally moving toward the possibility of change*

*-until you have exhausted all of your efforts you are not going to be open to whatever help could come from outside you.*

-so in our story we have demoralized defeated soldiers who have given up the idea that they can beat Goliath,,,,, and NOW IN WALKS DAVID.

-they have no hope

-in walks this very average height and weight young man

-we are told that Goliath HATED david immediately because of how good looking he was

-so David appeared too Pretty to be dangerous

-so we have a small PRETTY BOY with no REAL WEAPONS or ARMOR who wants to fight our giant.

-It is precisely because Israel was so demoralized that they allowed David to fight on their behalf.

**-but God's power was residing within this humble package**

## **When we reach the End of Ourselves we are able to Encounter God's Power and Provision for us.**

-Remember a few minutes ago when we talked about how the Apostle Paul could relate to our feeling of powerlessness.

*-he said "i don't understand, what I don't want to do, I do,,,,, what I want to do I don't do,,,,, but then look at how he continues his thought*

-Romans 7: 24-25 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?  
25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

-Paul was clear that he was not the answer to his problem.

-his solution was not "get back on the horse, and try again"

-The strength to defeat your Giant can only come from outside of you.

-If you could defeat your Giant, you already would have.

*-Definition of Insanity: do what you have always done and expect different results*

## **-Lets look at Exactly what happened with David:**

-David hears the threats and is surprised that nobody is stepping up

-The reason David expects someone to step up is that it is the right thing to do

-he is not asking if it's possible,,,,, he just knows it SHOULD HAPPEN

-Once David sees that Nobody else is going to,,,,, He decides that HE WILL step up

**-but his reasoning is NOT BECAUSE he thinks HE IS ABLE**

-David has this strange assurance that IF IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE ABILITY TO DO IT

**-Here is why david believed that:**

-There were two different occasions when Davids Flock of Sheep was attacked by wild animals (lion and bear)

-David was responsible to protect the flock,,,, (that is a shepherds job)

-The fact that he was not physically able to kill a lion or bear did not matter to David, he knew it was his responsibility so he TRIED TO RESCUE HIS SHEEP FROM THE MOUTH OF THE BEAR AND LION

-David jumped into a fight he could not win **because it was right.**

-When the animals turned to attack him, **in both situations, he grabbed them by the hair and struck and killed them.**

*(essentially David punched a lion and bear TO DEATH)*

-David somehow STRUCK those animals with a strength he did not have himself.

**-so david recognized that, that was God at work.**

*-after that happened the first time, that is why he stood up to the animal the second time*

*-Because it happened with two different animals David believed God would do something similar with Goliath*

-1 Samuel 17:37 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.”

-Here is the essential difference between the Demoralized Soldiers and Victorious David.

**-they were basing their action on what they could do, David was basing his action on what God could do.**

*-In fact David even said that to Goliath: “you come at me with sword and spear, but I come at you in the name of the God of Israel who’s armies you have defied. This day God will deliver you into my hands and I will cut off your head, and I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the wild animals and birds”*

**-Notice 2 things:**

**-his confidence is completely in what God will do**

**-he has no interest in the “deal” Goliath proposed, their will be no slaves or prisoners,,, they are going to get rid of the enemy like God instructed them to do so long ago.**

-That is exactly what happened. David ran at Goliath and with one rock from his sling Goliath was dead.

-God took that stone and guided it to this tiny exposed weak spot

**-It was not David’s skill with his sling that did it,,, it was God**

-Just like it was not David’s strength with the bear or lion.....

*-in fact David was not all that confident in his aim, he brought 5 rocks with him*

-Your strength will not win the battle but you will need to have enough confidence in God to join the battle.

-God did not carry David onto the battle field

-David got there himself

**-but once he was there, God made what David did COUNT.**

**-If you will pick a fight with your Giant and Rely on God's strength and provision, God will bring your Giant to the ground.**

### **Response: How does Jesus defeat our Giant?**

-1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

-We have to be willing to be real and honest. We cannot hide from reality.

-as long as we live in denial, minimizing, compartmentalizing we will never be able to activate the power of God that will defeat our giant (fear, anger, compulsive behavior)

-the first real BLOW to your GIANT is offer it to God with an honest, repentant heart

*-“God this is where I am and what is going on, I need you, I don't know what you will do to change this **but I want what you want for me**”*

-Start with Confession.

**-if you really want to be free, there is something powerful about confession to a brother or sister in Christ....**

-James 5:16 tells us “confess your sins one to another and pray for each other that you may be healed.

-Back to 1 John he says that when we confess, God will forgive AND CLEANSE us of unrighteousness.

-that means that once we turn that over to Jesus through a genuine repentant heart, God begins a process of cutting that Giant Down for you

*-There will be times when Freedom comes quickly and dramatically*

*-there will be times it comes through a process you walk through with trusted friends*

*-for some of us God will use a program like AA or some kind of professional Rehab, or counseling*

***-but all of those are just the stone that has been slung by human hands and guided by God right into the that deadly spot on your giant***

*-Whether freedom comes at the end of a two minute prayer or 2 months of counseling it is still the Divine work of Jesus CLEANSING YOU FROM UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.*

## **-The second key to how Jesus defeats our giant is that he satisfies our Yearning heart.**

-James 4:5 tells us that the Spirit (heart) that lives in us Envy intensely, but God gives us more grace.

-your heart was built for an unrestricted connection to the God of the Universe....

-our sin has resulted in a separation in that relationship,,, we now have a Restricted Connection to God

*-even if we are a believer our Heart was built for 200 meg broadband, connection to God but the best we can get now is Dial up.....*

-because of that our hearts are constantly YEARNING

*-i remember when I still had dial up internet,,, I would try to go to sites and sometimes after 2 or 3 minutes and the screen was still blank,,, and it was still loading,,, I would give up on that site and just go someplace else.*

**-we are really bad about feeding our yearning with different things, and that is how we develop our giants**

-that yearning gets mentally attributed to whatever our “thing” is

-so we feel the yearning: and we get wasted,,, and that seems to fill the yearning for a time

-or we feed one of our lusts. -or we go shopping and buy something

-or go hook up with someone. -or we eat our yearning full. -do something to alter our mental state....

## **-The biggest factor in long term freedom is to reconnect the yearning in our heart to the thing it really yearns for.**

*-spend time waiting in God’s presence for it to LOAD*

*-pray. -worship. -meditate on his word*

-When your heart is FULL of the presence of God your giant will lose the ability to order you around.

-Eventually it will lose all sway over you

-In that moment a heart that is full and satisfied on Jesus will recognize that this Giant has long since been dead and the birds have even picked his carcass clean.

*-with the innocence of a child in that moment you will laugh and wonder how you were ever so demoralize and controlled by this Pathetic thing.*

**-summary**

**-Our Actions that get coupled with His Power:**

-dont hide,,, confess your sin and he will FORGIVE and CLEANSE

-begin right away to FILL YOUR YEARNING HEART with JESUS

**Pray**