

Goliath Must Fall pt. 3: Perspective

-Intro Story of Bmx Bikes and Water Heaters:

-years ago in a combined attempt to connect with neighborhood teenagers and to find a new athletic hobby, I bought a Bmx bike and began riding at the BMX DIRT Jumps in south county ,,,, those familiar call them the FIGURES 8's

-I befriended a bunch of kids and through the course of time and God working a handful of kids became Jesus followers and started attending the church

-one kid in this Bmx clan had some family history at the church and he got especially connected,,,,, Coming to my house for meals and bible studies,,, I would pick him up early in the morning and we would ride the dirt jumps together,,,,, God had given me real influence there so I was doing my best to invest

-over time a pretty close connection to this kid's entire family developed

-This kid James was at my house so much that he noticed my hose always leaked,,,,, James' dad oversaw the maintenance on countless homes for a company that rented them

-James mentioned it to his dad and his dad showed up at my house to change out some faucets and do anything he could to try and be of service to us,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

-while in my basement he noticed our 30 year old water heater was partially rusted on the bottom and had a small leak

-I had noticed it but never thought anything of it

-James' dad immediately told me what a potential problem it was *"that could rupture at any moment and if you aren't home when it does to shut the water off it will fill your basement with water..."*

-It turned out the company he worked for, just changed a rule: all appliances in their homes MUST BE ENERGY STAR RATED.

-before the rule change had come the maintenance department had just purchased a water heater for a home that had not been installed yet when the rule change occurred.

-the appliance was brand new and perfectly good, it just didn't have the rating so it was completely useless to them

-James' dad shows up at my house the next day explaining what he found in the shop at work and how they would have just thrown it away, he had all the tools and fittings necessary already in his truck, and the job took him less than an hour.

-instead of throwing away a brand new water heater he would rather throw away my old one

Sometimes what happens in life depends on who we share life with.

-If James and his dad were not a meaningful part of my life I would NOT have had a Free Water Heater and I WOULD have had a basement flooded with water at some point.

-We are jumping back into this series on David and Goliath, and we are looking at how we can see the Fall of Giants that have wreaked havoc in our lives

-how we can have freedom from: Anger, fear, Anxiety, addictions, other life controlling issues....

-our Giants ROB US OF THE LIVES GOD HAS PLANNED for us,,, and they **keep our lives from BRINGING GLORY TO GOD**

-not necessarily killing us (but sometimes even that) but emptying us.....

-We talked last week about the FACT That we are not big enough on our OWN, we cannot defeat our Giants.

-we talked last week about what it looks like to INVITE the FREEDOM Jesus already won into our situation

-but today we are going to turn a corner and talk about ONE OF THE PRACTICAL WAYS JESUS works in our situation

-so everything we talk about today will be in addition to what last week was.....

-One the biggest components of God's work in you is the people he puts in your life.

-Romans 12:4-5 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

-when that says "belong to the others" it is talking about caring for each other

-My head belongs to my feet, in that, my feet are the only thing capable of getting my head to where it needs to be.

-my face and armpits and hair belong to my hand, in that, they require washing that only my hands can provide.

-Your brain has a plan to deliver help to that part but it must coordinate other parts to do so.

-God is our Head, and he plans to bring victory, encouragement, clarity, or some other essential thing to you. And often his plan for providing that involves other people.

-1 Samuel 17:2-12 Saul and the Israelite army assembled and camped in the Elah Valley, where they got organized to fight the Philistines. 3 The Philistines took positions on one hill while Israel took positions on the opposite hill. There was a valley between them.

4 A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was more than nine feet tall.

5 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.

12 Now David

- God cared about the lives and the freedom of all those men.
- God had a plan to bring freedom and deliverance to all those men.
- God's solution was to send someone else in with the answer.
- In today's scenario we are Saul and those soldiers. God has a plan for our freedom and blessing, but his plan involves someone else helping secure it for you.**

(not just Jesus but some other regular person)

-Problem: we often don't want help from outside of ourselves.

- we are too embarrassed.
- we are too afraid of vulnerability
- we **believe lies from the devil**
 - they will just judge me
 - nobody will understand
 - it will change things between us forever
 - honesty will cost me something

-God never intended for you to be able to win alone.

- the answer was never going to be Saul or the soldiers
- God had been preparing the answer for a long time out in the countryside
 - he had been sending lions and bears after a flock of sheep to train David

-There is nothing Saul or his soldiers could have done to beat Goliath.

- God had always intended to bring victory through David
- is it possible that you have been losing to your Giant all this time because God has prepared an answer but it is located in someone else?*

In many ways Self Sufficiency is Insufficiency.

-Saul was terrified and distressed but not because he was a coward, but simply because he had an accurate view of the situation.

-Saul did not know it, but he was living an example of what we just read in Romans 12:4-5.

- He was part of a body and the key to what the body needed then depended on him relying on another body part (David)

-(hair couldn't wash itself,,, it needed hands)

-Quote from Thomas Merton (No man is an Island) - *"We will see that we are human, like everyone else, that we all have weaknesses and deficiencies, and that these limitations of ours play a most important part in all our lives. It is because of them that we need others and others need us. We are not all weak in the same spots, and so we supplement and complete one another, each one making up in himself for the lack in another."*

-God intended for David to be what lacked for Saul.

-not just for the sake of David or of the Kingdom, but also for Saul

-There are people God has put around you that He intends to use in areas of your weakness; and vice versa from you to them.

-God designed us to supplement and complement each other, making up for the lack in each other.

What did God bring through David that was lacking? Perspective

-Israel's army was full of men, stronger, faster, and more dangerous than David.

-David did not bring a physical advantage to the situation

-David's unique perspective made all the difference.

-Saul and his Soldiers had a broken perspective.

-they had been staring at Goliath for 40 days

-in every quiet moment images of that terrifying giant filled their mind

-The only thing they could see was the size of the giant, all they could hear were his thundering threats.

-they probably sat around camp in the evening sharing legends about goliath

-did you know that he cooks his breakfast in the heart of an active volcano

-did you know he uses snake venom to season his food

-did you know he jumped into the ocean and fought a 20 ft. Shark pulling the teeth from its head,,,, and has now implanted those teeth in his own jaw

-Their broken perspective caused Goliath to go from being big to being Unbeatable and their Inevitable Master.

-In the same way that you can have a broken arm, you can have a broken perspective.

-when we stare at our problems, weaknesses, or faults long enough they fill our perspective

-they develop Mythical status,,,, we convince ourselves “It’s Hopeless”

-Those soldiers needed someone to walk into that camp who had not been staring at Goliath for 40 days.

-David on the contrary had seen a little bit of victory so his perspective was completely different.

-had he ever fought a giant? No but that didn’t matter.

-He had fought other things that were bigger and stronger and he had seen God do things, through him, in those fights that were not humanly possible.

-So David’s perspective: “God is bigger than any problem we run into.”

-how big was David????? 5 and a half feet. -how big was Goliath?? 9 feet

-But David was not looking at Goliath he was looking at God,, “HOW TALL DO YOU THINK GOD IS?”

-Scripture tells us that he measures the oceans in the palm of his hand (probably bigger than 9 feet....)

-Perspective keeps us from surrendering over and over again to Giants that are dead but still deadly.

-There are people around you in which God has been building the perspectives you need to see your Giant Fall.

-there are people who have seen victory in areas that enable them to EXPECT victory for you in your battle

-we all love to commiserate with those who have the same struggles, it makes us feel better for staying where we are

-but I want to encourage you to be on the look out for those around you who have SEEN GOD win a FEW FIGHTS

-begin to draw from their perspective.....

-Once you recognize a friend with a “Big God Perspective” rather than a “Big Giant Perspective”, Pull them close.

- invite them for dinner
- get your families together
- ask them question about life and listen to their stories and soak in their PERSPECTIVE
- you may recognize that they are strong where you are not. (like merton said)
- Open up a little bit and see what happens next**

-Proverbs 29:18 Msg. If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

-Saul and the soldiers were weak because they lacked Perspective of what God could do. And perspective is not something you can just conjure up.

-if you lack it, it must be shared with you from one who has it, then it can be reproduced in you.

-Often the key to moving forward in life is Regularly borrowing someone else's perspective and matching ours to it.

-If you struggle with anger, just trying not to be angry will not work

-when you are tempted to be angry you will need the perspective of a friend who has victory over their anger,, you will need to tell them about what you are tempted to be angry about
-i guarantee that when you hear their perspective on it,, you will see HOW WRONGLY you were approaching it,, and anger will loose some of its grip

-same with Fear,,,, any other Giant,,,,, **OUR PERSPECTIVES ARE THE ROOT OF OUR BROKENNESS**

-Romans 12:2 tells us that we are transformed by the “renewing of our minds”.

-fixing the way we see the world brings transformation to our life

-But perspectives are developed through experiences.

-There is a reason God does not take us straight to heaven immediately when we believe.

-God has done things in your life that give you a perspective that could bring victory to someone next to you..... (and the reverse)

-We have to be willing to be real with people.

-we must share our victories and our losses. **(we have a bad habit of picking one or the other)**

-Fear, Anger, Addiction, Eating Disorders, Pornography addiction, crippling insecurity,,,,, Our perspectives are TOO FULL of the strength of those things.

-all around you are people whom God has made strong where you are weak

-there are people in these seats who have overcome crippling addictions,, and have YEARS OF VICTORY and have walked countless others into it

-doesn't mean they don't have some other giant in some other area that may need help,, but in this area they HAVE AN EASY TIME IMAGINING VICTORY,, they have seen God doing it!

-being around them and talking with them will cause you to begin to see it and believe it as a real possibility,, and it will even reveal steps forward

-in this room there are people who have overcome different kinds of sexual brokenness,, they have seen God give victory there,, and they have PERSPECTIVE YOU NEED TO BORROW

-same with EVERY OTHER GIANT

-You cannot do it alone. The life you are living is tied to the perspective you carry,,,, If you want a different life you will need to borrow the perspectives God has placed in some lives around you.

Summary

-God's plan for your victory is to some degree built on your connection to someone besides you.

-You need the perspective of someone who has seen God do a few things.

-their perspective will give you what is needed to pick up the fight against your Giant

-we have already said it, ,,,,, You don't win the victory,,, Jesus Does,,,,, but you must have the confidence in God to JOIN THE FIGHT.

-God brings the victory.