

Goliath Must Fall pt. 4: Identity

-Intro: David pushes off two different attacks to his identity:

-Picture it:

-David is moving through the Israelite camp, (**describe setting**) distributing supplies and food to his brothers,,,,, He hears the LOUD Insults and challenges of Goliath

-(call out Goliath's words)

-He can see in the posture of the men around him,,, Nobody is going to fight

-INDIGNATION RISE in David,,,,, “we are God’s people, under his care,,, to demean us is to demean God,,, it will appear to the world that our God was not strong enough.”

-Before he can really understand what he is saying or why, DAVID BLURTS OUT “i will fight him”

-David’s older brother immediately begins attacking his identity:

-you are so arrogant,,, who do you think you are anyway

-ALL YOU ARE, IS A SHEPHERD

-and you don’t even have that many sheep to watch....

-David possess a deep passion and reverence for God,,,,, that is what is driving his response

-but the insult of his brother is trying to cheapen it,, and belittle it

-here is why::: *when you become willing to stand up push toward a better, more free life,,, some people will be bothered, because **your action highlights their INACTION***

-and sometimes people can be more concerned about not looking bad than being free.

-not every friend is going to be excited when you want more for your life, just be ready for that

-David shrugs off his brother’s attack and HE PERSISTS in his intention to fight

-Word quickly gets up the chain to KING SAUL

-Saul brings david into his tent and Immediately Recognizes David.

-david is on his payroll as a musician ,, he actually comes regularly to the palace and plays music for Saul

-Saul looks at this “BAND KID” and tells him, YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO DO IT!

-David tells Saul about THE BEAR and THE LION

-David drips with Passion and Reverence as he says “the same God who did it with the Lion and Bear will deliver this philistine into my hand”

-Saul agrees to let David fight

-But Saul assumes that David needs to look like a warrior.

-So Saul dresses David up in his own armor which is ridiculously TOO BIG

-David feels like a clown trying to pull off this “Big Strong Soldier” thing that Saul had going for him

-At best in Saul’s Armor, David is just going to be a Worse Version of Saul.

-David is moving around in Saul’s tent with Saul’s armor trying to imagine himself in a fight,, he feels SO HEAVY,,,, SO SLOW,,,,

-David realizes the truth of these words as they come out of his mouth,,, “I CAN’T WEAR THIS, It is not Strength of weapons or armor, that will bring the victory today.”

-Saul could see that God was WITH David, so he trusted David’s judgment and they stripped the armor off.

-David confronted Goliath as the Shepherd he was, with the tools of HIS trade, not as as shepherd trying to be a warrior.

-And God used a Shepherd to defeat a Giant and SET A NATION FREE.

Knowing who you really are is part of being able to do what God built you to do.

-Identity is not self determined nor is it discovered simply by probing the depths of ourselves.

-Colossians 3:2-3 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

-tune your thoughts into Jesus because he is somehow the key to defining who you really are now

-Jesus is perfected humanity. If you want to know who you really are you need to tap into the ONLY SOURCE of TRUE HUMANITY. Jesus

-getting to know Jesus taps you into what is true, real, and unique in you

Illustration: JB Weld,

-this component on its own will never become anything,, it will never set up into a real shape,,,, it will always be mushy and malleable.....

-but when it is introduced to this other component.....

-now you set a shape in within a minute or two it becomes that shape forever

-it can plug a hole in an engine ,,,, it can permanently rejoin a broken metal form

-it can be shaped into any form you need,, you could essentially create a tool that didn’t yet exist and then use it

-you see there is something unique and special in this lump of squishy material, but it needs what is in this other tube to activate what it really is.

-On our own we are just this malleable lump that doesn’t really serve much purpose. But when we are meaningfully connected to Jesus our identity and usefulness become apparent.

-we don’t posses REAL HUMANITY,,, ours is BROKEN by sin

-Jesus reintroduces to us what Humanity was meant to be

-God deposited certain unique tendencies in you
-unique abilities. -insights. -ways or relating others.
-challenges which will shape you and your inner life

-When all of these uniquenesses intermingle with TRUE HUMANITY through Jesus, they are amplified and begin to take on significance.

-that is how you find REAL IDENTITY

-One thing that is important as we try to live out who we really are is that we not try to be a “knock off” of other people.

-“similar to item seen on tv”. **-who has ever bought one of those? They aren’t that similar lol**

-when I say be “who you are” I am not talking about you defining yourself, by some interior probe, nor am I talking about letting our culture define you

-I am talking about Letting your Connection to JESUS define you.

-This can be a struggle for many of us. We spot things that look good in other people and we can be tempted to imitate them, rather than allowing our Jesus Imitation to bring our Identity into focus.

-dont take a short cut, *don’t be “similar to item seen on tv”*

-only as you sincerely IMITATE JESUS you combine your components with what he brings, which finally unlocks who and what you really are.

-We could probably do an entire series on that topic alone, but the Challenge to Identity we are going to focus on right now is a little different.

One of the greatest Hindrances to Who we Really are now is Who we Used to be.

-What you do ultimately flows from who you see yourself to be.

-Too many of us have allowed our Giants to dictate our Identity rather than our God.

-that is what happened to the soldiers, that is why they were frozen

-he is strong we are weak. -he is a champion we are just people

-they were defining who they were in relation to goliath

-but David saw his identity in relationship to God.

- God is our father and he fights our battles
- he delivered me from the wild animals
- He is my father and HE fights on my behalf,,,,, SO I AM NOT WEAK,,, in him I am strong,,,, in him I am more than enough

If how we see ourselves determines what we are capable of, How should we be seeing ourselves?

-2 Corinthians 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

-Once you put your faith in Jesus and submitted yourself to him, you became a new person.

- when God looks at you he sees you, but mixed with the Righteousness of Jesus
- So he sees your uniquenesses and abilities and all the potential they bring, but he sees them already combined with the righteousness of Jesus. (*true humanity of Jesus*)

-If you are a follower of Jesus, God sees you as “*all you will one day be*” through Jesus.

- he sees you as a new creation
- the old with all its weakness, apathy, and failure is Gone,,, All things are new

-Story of Gideon:

-fyi, Judges 6

-Hundreds of years before the story of David and Goliath, the Israelites were in their promised land but they failed to drive out all of the people who lived there

-at one particular point they were being Oppressed by a people group called the Midianites (actually the midianites were just the point people, they had developed a big cohort of people groups to team up against Israel)

-The Israelites were living in fear of their Oppressors, they had developed strategies to hide their food so that it was not taken or destroyed by the Bullies.

-our story zooms in on a guy named Gideon who is hiding down inside of a winepress trying to Thresh his grain.....

-he is doing this in such a weird and inopportune place for fear of his enemy

-this is the equivalent of cutting the elastic on his underwear so that the wedgie from the bully wont hurt....

-An angel Greets Gideon saying “Hello Mighty Brave Warrior”

-it can sound like sarcasm but it is not

-this angel sees Gideon not as he is now, but as he will be through God’s work in him

-as far as the angel is concerned that mighty warrior is already a reality because he knows God will bring it to pass

-Gideon ends up assembling an army of Israelites to fight this coalition of enemies
-But there is a problem they are up against 135,000 soldiers and they only have 32,000 soldiers , that is 4 to 1 odds!!!!

-God thinks that those odds are still possible and when he gives them victory they will mistakenly think it is because they are great rather than God

-So God tells Gideon to whittle their army down to just 300!!!!

-that is 450 to 1 odds!

-when God gives them this victory, there will be NO DOUBT as to who's power and greatness it was

-Gideon leads 300 men to the hill next to the valley where the opposing army looks like an unending sea of people.

-God tells Gideon, "if you are still afraid, walk down into their camp"

-so Gideon disguises himself and walks down among their tents

-Standing next to a tent he hears the people inside TALKING ABOUT A TROUBLING DREAM

-after one man tells his dream,,, the others say **this dream can only mean that God is going to use Gideon to destroy us all!**

-Now Gideon knows for sure that God will give them victory

-When Israel attacks, **God Causes Confusion in the Enemy Camp**

-this coalition of groups all believe that the other parts of the coalition have turned against them

-they all begin killing each other in a confused panic

-Gideon and these 300 men wipe out the enemy,,, and in a short period of time Gideon brings total freedom and peace to Israel

-By the end of Gideon's story he was indeed a Mighty and Brave Warrior. But that only happened because he learned to Act According what God said he was.

-You are a Giant slayer:

-you are a person who has been given victory over Fear

-you are a person who has been given victory over Anger

-you are a person who has seen and felt the sickness and chaos of addiction but you have now been given victory over that

-your **giants will fall dead before you leaving your future bright and free**

-All of that is true for no other reason but that God said it about you.

-“anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

Question: What do we do when our current reality conflicts with what God says we are?

(cheatsheet version: we should not feel ashamed..... nor should we just shrug it off in apathy concluding that god will forgive us anyway....)

-Decide which picture of you, you are going to lean into.

- will you take your cues from the abusive giant
- will you take your cues from a loving father who can make his vision of you reality?

--1 corinthians 6:8-11 you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. 9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And **that is what some of you were**. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

-The apostle Paul is speaking to people who, even though they were Jesus followers were still doing bad stuff.

-they had some giants: idolatry -drunkards. -slander. -sexually immorality

-He tells them **THIS IS NOT WHO YOU ARE ANYMORE**.

-VS. 11 says "thats what you WERE". -but now You ARE now something different

-Jesus washed you, sanctified you, and justified you, and THE HOLY SPIRIT is now making those Spiritual Realities into your Physical Reality.

-We need to recognize when our actions are hold overs of who we used to be and then respond to them as such.

-spot it::: "whoa, wait that is not who I am, that is who I used to be...."

-That anger, fear, or weakness may be what you are doing right now, but it is not who you are.

-It is a leftover of who you were. It has been in your fridge too long, and it STINKS:

-when you see it surface in you, don't keep it in there *(who has done that?? Find gross left overs and rather than pull out and clean dish, push it back into the back....)*

-Toss IT out and LEAN INTO WHO YOU ARE NOW!

-as you do this you will run across lots of old leftovers in there,,,,,

-as we see them our response should continue the same:

-there is no condemnation for me because I am in Christ

-with a heart made LIGHT and FREE by forgiveness I choose to cling to WHO HE SAYS I AM

-and once again I throw that left over out as well

-Over time as we cling to who he says we are, the reality of what is stored up in our lives more closely matches.

-If you are in Jesus, that giant and all the behavior that comes with it,,, that is WHO YOU WERE. That is not who you are anymore.

-Jesus has made you someone new.

-Leaning into your relationship with Jesus and your Imitation of Jesus will continually make his New Identity for you More and MORE true in reality.

-it is already true from Gods perspective

-He looks at you and calls you Mighty Brave Warrior.

-choose to believe what he calls you and lean into that identity (make choices that match that)

-Ultimately what you do flows as a byproduct of who you see yourself to be.

-you are a NEW CREATION,,, the old is gone,,, all things are new