

Goliath Must Fall pt. 5: Future vs Past

-Story of David's decision to fight: -paraphrased from 1 Samuel 17:25-27

- It is hot and dry with a breeze blowing on the top of a large hill
- a beautiful valley lies below and on the other side it, is another hill,,, and that is where THEY ARE
- for generations now this fight has been building,,, Israel has been growing more powerful using up more space and resources
- but the Philistine people have been doing the same: *once a small tribe of crazy mountain men, they have now become a legitimate threat,,,*

- There have been skirmishes and small fights here and there,,, but it has finally come to a boil
 - the Phillistines assembled for war in Jewish territory
 - Saul and the soldiers line up ready to take on this foe....
 - each army occupying a hilltop with the valley separating them**

-one man walks out of the philistine camp into the valley and begins calling out

- because the distance and landscape plays tricks on your eyes it isn't until this man is pretty close that you realize how shockingly abnormal he is

-He is a Giant:

- 9 ft tall at least. -weight 8 or 900 pounds. -covered in armor from head to toe
- his weapons have a killing stroke of almost 20 feet
- This must be GOLIATH::: they have heard legendary tales about him but didn't really believe it*
- this guy is rumored to have killed hundreds of men,,, he has been fighting his whole life and has never lost a fight**

- Even though he doesn't really have the authority to do so HE SETS THE TERMS for this war

- there is no reason for all of us to fight,,, Send your best guy to fight me
- whoever wins,,,,, wins the war,,, beat me and all of the Philistines will be your slaves,,, if I beat your guy, you will serve us
- everyone looks around as they all slowly inch away from the shouts and insults of Goliath

-this same scene played out 2 x's a day for more than a month

-Saul is embarrassed and desperate for some solution

- it had to be a solution that didn't involve him fighting goliath.....*
 - it started off by saying the king would give "GREAT WEALTH" that anyone who fights goliath. (that didn't work)
 - next Saul says anyone who fights goliath will never pay taxes again. (joke)
 - finally anyone who fights him will HAVE SAUL'S DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE
- even with all this being offered, nobody is stepping up to fight the giant

-We can relate to where these soldiers are.

- maybe we have giants of : fear, insecurity, anger, complacency, or even addiction
- life without that giant has a lot of possibility, but even thoughts of that possibility cannot push us to make a change

-Then David showed up in the camp.

- he is not part of the army but stays at home to care for the family sheep
- Dad sends David to bring food and supplies to his brothers who are in the army,,, and to come back home with news about how they are.
- David hears Goliath's challenge and subsequent insults and as he looks around at the soldiers David is PERPLEXED,,,, NOBODY IS STEPPING UP
 - remember David just got here so he has not heard yet about the Riches, the no taxes, or the kings daughter

- So David hears the insults, see the reaction of the soldiers, and turns to the Men around him and asks - **“What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel?”**
 - so the men tell him about the incentives

David responded to Goliath differently because he chose to live with the Future in Focus.

-this is not the only difference, but this is the difference we will focus in on today.

-Notice the things David didn't ask that the soldiers were focused on:

- David didn't ask how many fights Goliath had won
- David didn't ask how many days this had been going on
- David didn't ask why King Saul hadn't fought yet
- David didn't ask about the weapons or the armor of Goliath
 - (all of that is discussed in the story before David shows up,,,,, so all of that had been the focus of the characters of the story up until David)*
- in fact the only time David mentions Goliath's weapons is to discount them
 - he says “you come at me with puny swords and spears, but I come at you with the God of the universe,,,,, I mean I almost feel bad doing,,,,, it isn't even close to a fair fight....”*

-David was not focused on all the immediate hurdles associated with defeating Goliath.

-David was focused on the future:

- this challenge to the ongoing Glory of God revealed in his people must be neutralized
- what is the future of Israel going to look like with and without GOLIATH
 - **for sake of the future Goliath needs to be gone**
- what is the future going to look like for the Person who Does that?

-David heard what would be done and decided “I want that future”.

-Often remaining under the heel of OUR Giant stems from a choice for THE PRESENT MOMENT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FUTURE.

-David did not doubt the danger of facing Goliath in the present, but weighed against future hope it was more than worth it.

-David's heart and mind was more committed to the future he wanted than what would be easier in the present.

-on the other hand the soldiers were choosing the present over the future

-they all loved the idea of being rich,,, having no taxes, and being related to the king,,, but they DIDNT LOVE ENOUGH TO PUSH PAST FEAR or COMPLACENCY NOW

-What does it look like for us to choose the present over our future?

-taking another pill because it will keep you from feeling the sickness or pain that comes from breaking free of addiction,,, you chose to feel good RIGHT NOW rather than to be permanently better

-it means slinking back into what is comfortable and not taking the risk, not applying yourself, not finding out what you are really capable of

-it means giving FULL VENT to your angry feelings because it makes YOU feel better right now, rather than making choices that enable Loving Healthy Relationships in the future

-When we chose the future at the expense of the present it creates a feeling of tension that we must learn to manage, in the now.

-choosing the present over the future alleviates tension now but means pain later

-Saying: You can play now and pay later; or you can pay now and play later.

-that is a financial concept but it has great application to this topic

-Discipline in the present results in freedom and blessing in the future, but indulgence in the present often equals pain and restraints in the future.

-speak your mind in anger with those around you now and in the future there wont be anyone around you to speak it to

-do whatever you feel like doing now, and in the future what you are able to do will be very limited..... (both legal / social restraint and physical body restraint)

-David chose to pay now and play later.

-His vision for the future empowered him to make key changes in the present.

-Freedom requires us to think and act for the Future more than we do for the present.

-Tomorrow is only ever built from the materials of today

-we must decide what we want for tomorrow and begin to live out those building blocks today

Living for the Future requires us to Resolve what is in the past.

-On a really practical level we must first resolve the Guilt and Condemnation that comes with a Defeat Littered Past.

-if your brain is weighed down by past defeats you will never be able to believe any other future is possible

-About 500 years after the events of David and Goliath, Jesus came.

-Jesus changed everything

-Jesus died in the place of sinful humanity allowing our guilt and shame to be punished in him

-jesus also lived the PERFECTLY GOOD LIFE that all humans should have lived

-Jesus told us that by Faith, our “accounts” could be switched

-He will write our name on the record of his life in God’s record book

-Jesus defeated sin, death, and temptation on behalf of all who put faith in him.

-Jesus chose the future over the present

-chose eternity over momentary : pleasures, comforts, ease, or emotions

-By faith in Jesus that is now our story. That is now who WE ARE.

-About 35 years after Jesus did all that, the Apostle Paul (a follower of Jesus) said these words.

-Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

-you see Paul fully understood the implications of Jesus switching places

-regardless of the different failures or issues that had been in the past when Jesus switches the names on the records the result is always the same

-our guilt is hung on Jesus on that cross

-Jesus’s goodness is somehow hung on us (that is what God sees)

-When we place our trust in Jesus, making him boss in our lives; those two things become what is true about us.

-our guilt and condemnation is hung on Jesus and punished in his death on the cross

-Jesus’ goodness is hung on our life and now we experience the blessing and reward associated with that level of goodness

-So no matter what terrible or embarrassing things were in our story THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION from God for us.

-This is especially potent coming from Paul.

- the Christian church started within the shell of the Jewish religion
- Many Jewish leaders and priests saw the truth and followed Jesus, but many did not.
- Those who didn't, FOUGHT against the Christian church violently.
- Paul (once Saul) was ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT OPPOSERS of the church.
 - Paul was personally responsible for HUNDREDS of Christian families being ripped apart by persecution, violence, death, and imprisonment.....
 - dead fathers and sons. -imprisoned brothers, fathers, kids
 - families separated as they are force to flee the area
 - paul lead a campaign of terror and violence to try and crush the christian church before it ever really got established

- Imagine what it was like to be Paul for Years and Years after conversion:
 - every church he went to was full of women and children who were without husbands and fathers because of him!!!! *(they didn't get set free just because paul converted,, they were still serving out sentences... the persecution went on even after paul started went on after Paul converted.)*
 - Pauls actions gave rise to others who also persecuted

- everywhere Paul went he saw horrible reminders of the cost of his sin**
- Paul personally knew widows and orphans who now struggled to survive, and he knew that he had been responsible for making them that way.**

-Coming from that place Paul said “there is now no condemnation for me because I am in Christ Jesus”

-If you showed Paul a picture of the Failures your past is littered with, he would probably laugh and say, “the redemptive power of Jesus will not even break a sweat on guilt like this”

- please don't misunderstand, I am not minimizing your sin or its impact
- What I am saying is **“If understanding what Jesus does for us can set Paul free from Condemnation it can set you free as well”**

-There is now no condemnation for you who are in Christ Jesus!

Resolving Condemnation allows us to Remove ourselves from the Past and Focus our hearts on the Future.

- In a letter to a church in the ancient city of Philippi Paul said this about escaping the past in pursuit of the future.
- Philippians 3:12-14 not that I have already obtained all this or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what

is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

-Paul is clearly admitting that he is still not “all the way there yet”

-there are still things in Paul’s life that don’t line up with what God has planned for him

-Paul is telling the Philippian Christians that, because he knows there are things in THEIR lives also that don’t line up with what God wants.

-sin and failure was not only a “before Jesus issue”

-After all these years Paul was still discovering and battling Giants in his life.

-So here is what Paul is trying to teach us using his own example:

1. God has a plan for your life
2. Some of what is currently in your life works against that plan
3. When you discover it: Repent of it, Allow God’s Grace to Cover it, freeing you from Condemnation
4. Then Forget it and Refocus your movement toward what God does have planned for you.

-Even after you start taking Jesus and Giants seriously you will suffer setbacks.

-you will be cruising along on a good spiritual path and suddenly discover yourself in a mess

-maybe you just discovered the mess or maybe you saw the mess building but you were too complacent to deal with it,,,,, and now you are in a mess.....

-when that happens refer to Paul’s lesson and list

-1. remember God has a plan -2. Recognize your sin and its effect -3. Repent allow Grace to free you from condemnation. 4. Forget it and Focus back on God’s Plan and Move toward it

-We tend to make one of two mistakes when it comes to responding to our own failure.

-we either live in self condemnation and abandon the idea that we can be used by God for anything good

-or, we accept his grace without repentance: we forget the past but don’t turn from it to the future,,,,,, BOTH HAVE THE SAME RESULT

-us stuck in slavery to our giant

-But God has so much more for you!

-There is a plan for you for Good

-But we are all starting off with a track record of Defeat

-Accept Grace:::: There is no condemnation IF you in Christ.

-But this is what you must do: Repent, Forget what is behind, Press on Toward the goal.

-I love how Paul says it *“to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of me”*

-Forget what is behind (really leave it behind) but then Forget it

-Press toward the plan that he had in mind when he took hold of your life through Jesus

-Victory is found in Living Toward the Hope of the Future rather than in the Shame of the Past.