

Goliath Must Fall pt. 6: New Normal

Story of David's fight: -paraphrased from 1 Samuel 17:41-53

- Israel's army had been camped for war opposite the philistines for 40 days
- when the Giant Goliath appeared the men RAN FROM THE BATTLELINE IN FEAR
- This Giant had been humiliating and undermining these men for a long time
 - we are talking about Saul,,, a king,,, a warrior,,,,, a no nonsense man of action
 - he is has been reduced to cowering lump in front of his men*
 - but so have the men,,,, each one now feels like a shell
 - they have given up hope of getting out of this with their dignity or freedom in tact*
- now they are just trying to hold out long enough for decent terms of surrender....

- but David enters the camp and hears the threat, insults, and challenges
- David has seen God do miraculous things in his life before so he is able to TRUST GOD here as well
- David volunteers to fight goliath

- David walks toward Goliath,, picking up a few stones on his way
- Goliath screams insults at David as he approaches
- David calmly responds: *you come at me with weapons, but I come at you with THE GOD of ISRAEL,,, the only true God,,, and you have ANGERED HIM,,,, So he will give you into my hands and I will kill you,,,, and I am going to feed the dead bodies of all your men to the wild animals today. This victory will be God's,,, ,and the world will know that HE IS THE ONE TRUE POWER.*

- Goliath thunders toward David;;; and David reaches in his bag, grabs a stone, and slings it toward Goliath.
- God guides the stone through the air imbedding it right between Goliath's eyes.
- Goliath feels his legs failing,,, he tries to regain control but cannot
 - in reality he is dead and just doesn't know it yet*
 - by the time he settles to the ground it's over*

- but David does something interesting:** he grabs Goliath's sword and cuts his head off, and SHOWS IT, first to the philistines, and then to the Israelite soldiers

- When the Philistines saw how easily THIS BOY killed Goliath, they KNEW, **THERE IS A MIGHTY GOD ON THE SIDE OF ISRAEL**

- They knew there was nothing they could do against this God
- The Philistines RAN for their lives,, they fled all the way back to Gath,,, in their retreat they surrendered the lands they had been taking from Israel for Generations

- When David showed Goliath's head to the Israelites it demonstrated to them in very real terms that GOD WAS WITH THEM and these Philistines would fall,,,, so the Israelite ARMY CHASED THE PHILISTINES DOWN**

-we are told that the road back into the philistine ancestral cities was LITTERED with dead philistines

-David did not win the entire war by himself.

-God used David's victory to change the expectations of the Israelite army

-In the same way that Goliath's threats had demoralized, now Goliath's visible defeat gave Courage.

-David's victory set the scene for the victory of many others.

-now Israel was on the offense and Philistines were retreating

-It took some years but now the Army was empowered, and now they carried on the task of reclaiming the land God had given them.

-mile after mile, city after city, battle after battle,,,, Israel went through the process of VICTORY and PEACE

Everyone is a Leader. The only question is what we are leading people towards.

-David announced the deaths of the Philistine soldiers before engaging Goliath.

-he could never kill that many people

-He was counting on HIS VICTORY empower Israel's Army to win victories

-Remember what David asked "what will be done for the man who kills Goliath AND removes this Disgrace from Israel"

-David knew killing Goliath would remove DISGRACE and inject Honor and Valor

-What David did or didn't do was not just about him.

-Proverbs 27:17 As Iron sharpens Iron, so One person sharpens another.

-David's plan was bigger than just Goliath.

-David knew his courage and faith in God would sharpen others

-that would pave the way for God to do IMMEASURABLY MORE than he could through just one person

-there had been a collective disgrace hanging on Israel for a long time,,, the philistines had dominated and oppressed Israel

-Saul's fear had influenced his men.

-Saul did not mean for this to happen but it did

-the fact that he had not stood up to the Philistines created a certain culture within his army

-So it makes sense that nobody is stepping up,,, nobody is willing to fight,, no matter what perks are offered

-It no longer felt cowardly to run from Goliath, it became NORMAL.

-When we fall into patterns of anger, fear, or complacency we are hurting more than just ourselves.

-we are leading and leaving legacy

-that can be for our coworkers, our friends at church, our household,,, our kids....

-Every step closer to Victory over your Giants, is a step into a LEGACY of freedom for those around you and after you.

-Saul was not just affecting Saul in his fear and complacency

-David was affecting more than just David in his courage and assertiveness

-The actions of both men deeply and concretely impacted those around them

-Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds

-Get Practical:

-overcoming your anger will empower everyone around you to be free from that destructive prison as well ,,,,,, but to continue in it SENDS IMPLICIT INVITATIONS TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW....

-ladies, to overcome compulsive issues regarding your body and loving how God intended YOU TO LOOK,,, will set girls around you FREE,,,,, But to continue to live under the HARASSMENT of that giant invites others into the same misery

-you can justify that habit of getting high, when it is only about you,, your stress,, your pain,,, your specific situation,, **but its about so much more than you**

-with every puff or pill you are deciding what is normal for all those coming along side you and after you,,,,,

-We are cementing and passing on LEGACY. The only question left to us is WHICH DIRECTION is my Legacy leading people.

-When you surrender to your giant your loss impacts so much more than just you. And when your giant EATS DIRT your victory impacts SO MUCH MORE THAN YOU.

-Illustration: Mortal Combat, "Finish Him"

-in this moment in the game you can do a special move that kills your opponent in a gory, bloody, way over the top kind of way,, and gets you extra points

-or if you do nothing they will waver back and forth until they collapse

-This reminds me of the moment in the Story where David Cuts Goliaths head off with his own sword.

Question: Why remove the Giants Head?

-Is it really necessary?

-David is simply being sure the job is finished.

-this giant will not show back up on the battle field later

-A mistake that we sometimes make when dealing with our giants is that we drop them to the ground, but we fail to finish them.

-we gain serious ground against our issue and we have it on the run, but we stop short of complete and final victory

-Sometimes complete victory requires decisive action.

-sometimes you can improve your issue on your own,,, but to really kill it you may need to make appointments with a counselor

-maybe you push your giant of addiction back into a corner of your life to where you can function again,,, but to deal it a death blow,,, you may need an actual rehab program,,, or aa meetings or a sponsor.....

-Many of you are making strides toward freedom and wholeness as God works in your life during this season.

-When your giant is on the ground, FINISH HIM!

-do whatever is necessary to be sure it doesn't end up back on your battlefield later

Establishing "Normal" is a Shared Responsibility. Each of our lives casts One Vote in that process.

-Saul's acceptance of Goliath's terms helped establish a version of normal within the camp.

-Every day when Goliath challenged the army, every soldier slinked silently away. And Each time they reestablished "normal"

-Israel had been accepting so much less than what God wanted for them for a while now. They allowed foreign enemies to multiply and TAKE OVER.

-For generations it had become normal for Philistines to intimidate Israelites
-and to ANNEX land once controlled by Israel

-These small defeats, slowly normalized defeat as a way of life

-David on the other hand did something that Emboldened the men around him and gave them hope that there might be a NEW NORMAL.

-then every soldier pursued the philistines far into territory the philistines had long controlled, wiping them out every step as they went

-now courage against the philistines was the new normal

-David's victory would inspire other victories, and those victories would inspire other victories until eventually their victory over Philistines would be Complete, Unequivocal, and Absolute.

-Every time an Israelite defeated a Philistine, Victory, Blessing, and Peace became a little more Normal.

-Every victory we win empowers those coming along side us and after us to carry the victory even further than we did.

*-Years later, once David was king, an **insanely fierce band of warriors** developed in Israel: **David's Mighty Men.***

-there were 37 Mighty Men and each one gained distinction by doing things similar to what David had done against Goliath

-many fought giants and won

-One fought a LION for fun ,,, voluntarily jumped in a pit to fight the Lion....

-One time the army got into a battle with another army and the whole army made the decision to fall back and regroup,,,,, but one Guy didn't get the memo,,,,,

-when everyone realized he had not come,, they went back to find him and when they got there he had killed the entire opposing army 300 men!!!!!! His hand was frozen to his sword

-one guy fought and killed 2 giants at once,,, probably just to see if he could

-David's victory helped establish a new normal. And then all of these people who came after David were enabled to push that NEW NORMAL further and further.

-David's mighty men were Mightier than David had been.

-God was able to do more through them than he did through David

-The thing about "Normal" is that it is a very Malleable Concept.

-for good or for bad, Normal is constantly being reestablished and reinforced

-Your life and my life are a vote for what is Normal.

-in our family.... -in our friendships. -in our neighborhood

-in our regional groups (when we rally around hurting people.....)

-in our church gatherings (we decide if we are normally embracing, welcoming, integrating people into the life of the church)

-men we decide what Normal Christian Men live and lead like

-Ladies,,, same thing

-Our lives are casting votes for Normal.

-May God give us a vision for the church of 10, 20, 40 years from now.

-may we live in such a way that we normalize freedom and victory

-may we live in such a way that it influences Generations After Us who LOOK LIKE DAVIDS MIGHTY MEN ,,,, may we empower them to carry it so much further than we did.....

-may the Normal of Grace Union Church 10 years from now be so much more wholesome and Jesus like, than today

-may the Normal Victory and Cultural Impact of GU 20 years in the Future be astronomically more than it is today,,,,,

-may our kids lead a version of the church that is so much more beautiful and powerful than today is

-and may our CITY'S version of NORMAL be very different 40 years from now because of what the church DECIDES IS NORMAL TODAY.

Recap:

-Everyone is a leader the only question is the direction we will lead in.

-When your Giant is falling down,,, FINISH HIM,,,, don't leave the possibility for it to show back up on the battle field later

-The Establishment of Normal is a Group Responsibility and we all just get one vote, and it is our life.

-Let us all consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds