

BLAST VIDEO #7: "LITTLE BIG MAN"

(I Samuel 17)

7.19.20

Many times we feel that, if only we were bigger, if only we were stronger, then maybe sometimes things would go better for us. Have you ever felt like that? Well, if you have, then you might find a lot of comfort in this story of a young man who became much, much bigger than a giant he had to fight. That's our story for today.

Now, once upon a time, a long time ago, there was a nation called the Philistines, and it seemed like they were always picking some kind of fight with Israel. Well, one day, the Philistines showed up to fight again. Their army was on one side of a valley, and the Israelite army was on the other side. But, instead of both armies fighting like usual, the Philistines sent out a literal giant of a man - a guy named Goliath. The Bible says that he was maybe as tall as 9'9". That's over two feet taller than any of our tallest basketball players today. And he wasn't just tall, but big and strong, too. His armor alone weighed about 125 pounds, and the iron tip on the end of his spear weighed 15 pounds. This was one bigguy!

Now every day, he called out to Israel to send out a man to fight him. You see, the idea was that, instead of the armies fighting, these two guys would be the only two to fight. And, as Goliath himself said, ***"If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."*** In other words, the winner of their fight would win the war! This went on for 40 days.

Well one day, a young kid named David came to where the two armies were set up. He came to bring some things from home for his three older brothers, who were all in Israel's army. And just as David was talking with his brothers, Goliath came and made his challenge to Israel. Now you'd of thought that maybe David would be afraid just like everybody in the army; after all, he wasn't even old enough to be in the army (you had to be at least 20 years old). But all he could say was: ***"Who does this Philistine think he is that he should defy the armies of the living God?"***

That got some people's attention. They went and told the king, a man named Saul, and the king then sent for David. When David came before the king, he told him: ***"Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."***

Well, the king took one look at him and said, "I can't let you do that. I mean, you're just a young, little guy, and that man over there has been a soldier from when he was your age. Just forget about it, kid."

But David told the king, ***"Your majesty, your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear so***

I don't care how big this guy seems to be; this Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 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." [The king] said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you." But then the king tried to dress David in his soldier clothes, but that wasn't going to work for him because he wasn't used to them; he'd never worn a tunic or coat of armor or helmet or any of those things. So instead, ***David took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.***

Now as David approached him, Goliath watched, and became more and more angry. In fact, when he saw that David was just a little kid, he was insulted - and furious - and he said so. ***"Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks? Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"***

David said to [Goliath], "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I (will) strike you down. This very day the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands."

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. So, David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines. When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they took all the valuables that the Philistines had left behind.

Isn't that a great story? But it's the lesson God wants us to learn that is the most important thing. And that lesson is this: We don't have to worry about having to be the biggest or the strongest or the fastest or anything else that somebody thinks is important. We need only rely on God. 'Cause you know what? He is bigger and stronger and faster than any situation we will ever face. And because He is, if we are in relationship with Him, all of a sudden we are big and strong and fast because God is working through us. How cool is that?

In Psalm 147, it says this: ***[God's] pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of the warrior; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love - Psalm 147:10-11.*** In other words, God doesn't want us to depend on the strength of anything around us. He wants us to depend only on His strength. His strength will always be enough. God bless!