



Worship Guide for June 25, 2023

Sermon Notes

That All the Earth May Know

1 Samuel 17 (pew Bible pgs. 239-241)

What is 1 Samuel 17 all about - and what are we to learn from the account of David facing Goliath?

Here's what it is NOT about: It's not a story about how the underdog can overcome great odds. It's not about how someone can beat the "giants" in his/her life. It's not about being creative and 'thinking outside the box' when we face adversity. It's not a model for leadership – about how to get ordinary people to do extraordinary things. It's not about picking out five good stones (like courage, confidence, preparation, skill, etc.) for our personal battles. It's not about the dangers of being over-confident. It's not about knowing the weaknesses of our adversaries and hitting them where it hurts.

As we begin a three-week study of 1 Samuel 17, today we focus on the scriptural setting for 1 Samuel 17 and the enemy who opposes God and his people. The serpent of Genesis 3 is represented by Goliath the Philistine 'champion' (literally "the man of in-between") who arrogantly and contemptuously defies the God of Israel. But Goliath is a relatively small representative of a spiritual enemy far more terrifying and powerful than a nine-foot giant. "All of us face an enemy, an army of enemies, as real, powerful, and terrifying as Goliath. Death wields its terrible sword and mocks us all. Sin threatens to bring us down. Satan himself seeks whom he may devour." (Woodhouse)

This fearful and formidable enemy can only be understood within the context of the entire scriptural record of God's redemptive work. 1 Samuel 17 is about God's eternal plans and purposes for his people, the enemy that opposes those plans and purposes, and the greater-than-David King who is the real Champion – the One who crushes the serpent's head and rescues God's people. The story of 1 Samuel 17 is about the eternal Son of David who stands in the gap on behalf of God's people and accomplishes an eternal victory so "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel", and the battle is His!

The Physical Setting: Enemies in the land of Judah– the conquest reversed

The Spiritual Scenario: Adversaries and unbelief.....Again

The Physical Enemy: His name, his size, his armor, his defiance

The Real Enemy: Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

Applications:

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
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JUNE

17-27 Hungary Mission Trip
June 26-July 6 Peru Mission Trip-Phase 2

JULY

2 Churchwide Picnic @ Hyco Park 4pm-8pm
4 Independence Day - Church Office Closed
24-28 CentriKid Summer Camp @ Ridgecrest
30 Communion
31-August 4 Be Do Tell Summer Camp @ Ft. Caswell