

David and Goliath

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon (Family Meeting)
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 15th May 2011

Intro-

- How confident are you? Some people are so bashful they will never put themselves forward for anything, and yet others are so full of themselves that they always seem to hog the limelight. Really our confidence should not come from ourselves but from our great God. This should keep us from being full of our own self-importance, or of the other extreme- lacking in confidence.
- Last week we heard about a man of 85 years of age who believed that he was unstoppable simply because he had God on his side. That man's name was Caleb, and we saw how he took the inheritance God gave to him, even though a whole nation fell away in disbelief around him.
- This week we are going to look at a similar man of extreme courage, who, like Caleb was prepared to stand up and fight, simply because he knew God was with him. However this time the man was not 85 years old but just a young boy. We are going to look at David as he faced Goliath and identify 3 principles that enabled him to achieve what he did, principles that we can apply to our lives today.

Read Sam 17- Act it out with the children

David was a man of character- v26 'Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?'

- This might not seem important to David defeating Goliath, but it was crucial.
- Goliath was a Philistine- he was not walking in God's ways ('uncircumcised') and had no intention to- he was defying God's armies. The Philistines were Israel's enemies and they wanted to take land. The Bible says they originally came from Kaphtor- we don't really know where this was, but many think it may have been Crete (it is thought that they came from somewhere in the Aegean sea). They were a seafaring people and were one of a number of people- groups referred to by the Egyptians as the 'sea peoples' who conquered foreign lands. They had a mighty battle against Egypt and there are pictures of this battle carved into some ancient Egyptian temples. The Philistines had feathered head dresses with plumes sticking up all round- they looked like they had a brush on their heads. The Philistines took a strip of land on the coastal plain of Israel and named it Philistia. The name 'Palestine' today derives from this name.
- The Philistines had 5 cities on this plain. One of these cities was called 'Gath'. Goliath was from Gath. Recently part of a bowl was found in the city of Gath when it was excavated by archaeologists. The piece of bowl has what is thought to be the name 'Goliath' inscribed on it. It is thought to date a little while after the time of Goliath. Maybe it was his cereal bowl, the last of his shredded wheat before facing David!
- **The Philistines were not content to stay in this coastal plain.** They wanted to take the land and were pushing into Judea. The Israelites were trying to protect their territory, but Goliath was their stumbling block. He was the enemies foothold on the people of Israel.
- The Devil wants to have a foothold in our lives. He wants to take the territory of our character. If we give him an inch he will take a mile. Satan says 'Go on- what harm will it do?' and 'No one will know'. As we give in to one sin, so he gains ground and tries to entangle us in a cycle of sin. We need to nip sin in the bud so that it will not

take root. James speaks of how our selfish desires lead us to sin and where sin leads to ultimately- a downward spiral of destruction and death. David knew that Goliath was the foothold the enemy had, and it was no longer to be tolerated. What footholds have we given to the enemy in our lives? Are there areas we have opened our lives up to what we know is wrong? God wants us to put these right today.

Winter was coming on and a hunter went out into the forest to shoot a bear, out of which he planned to make a warm coat. By and by he saw a big bear coming toward him and raised his gun and took aim. "Wait," said the bear, "why do you want to shoot me?" "Because I am cold," said the hunter, "and I need a coat." "But I am hungry," the bear replied, "so maybe if we just talk this over a little, we could come to a compromise." So the hunter sat down beside the bear and began to talk over the pros and cons. In the end, the hunter was well enveloped with the bear's fur and the bear had eaten his dinner.

- **The Israelites had tolerated Goliath's taunts and challenges for 40 days and evenings.** David, in his godly character decided -not a day more. Are we putting off making godly decisions about changes we know need to happen in our lives today? Are we playing with sin for a season, with an aim at some future date to give it up? The Bible says 'Today is the day of salvation' and 'If you hear His voice today do not harden your heart'. If we aren't prepared to change today what makes us so sure we will change our minds tomorrow when sin has taken more of a hold on our lives? David was tough enough to make a tough decision there and then.
- **Goliath had outward strength, but David had inward strength of character.** Exercise good, but more important is inside- train yourself to be godly says Paul (1Tim 4:7-8). How strong is our character? Are we trustworthy? Keep our word? Gossip? Integrity- same in private as in public? Appearance can be important, but our inner appearance is more so. Goliath appeared invincible-
-over 9 feet tall (my size and half again. 2Sam 21:16-22 mentions other giants from the same area, one with 6 fingers on each hand and 6 toes on each foot), bronze helmet, coat of chain mail weighing 5,000 shekels of bronze (125 pounds), bronze armour on his legs, bronze javelin between his shoulders, staff of his spear like a weaver's beam & iron spearhead weighed 600 shekels (15 pounds), and a shield bearer went before him!
- However, the heavier they are, the harder they fall! He rebelled against God and fell down. It does not matter what we look like on the outside, if we don't have integrity of character it can all fall apart in a moment. Look at great people we have respected who have suddenly fallen as sin has been revealed in their lives. Suddenly they go from the top of respect to the gutter of shame, just like Goliath. David's strength came from his godly character, however, when he stopped living in a godly fashion he too fell like Goliath, when he committed adultery, however, he humbled himself and God was able to restore him. Are we willing to humble ourselves and confess our failings to God, and surrender ourselves to Him to work in our lives to transform our characters?
- A young man filled out an application for admission to a university. In response to a request to "List your Personal Strengths," he wrote, "Sometimes I am trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent." Where the form said, "List Your Weaknesses," he wrote: "Sometimes I am not trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent." None of us is perfect.
- "Character is not made in a crisis. It is only exhibited in a crisis!" - Unknown. "Have character, don't be one!" - Unknown.
- Leonard Ravenhill tells of a group of tourists who were visiting a picturesque village. One person turned to an elderly man sitting nearby and asked, "Were any great men born in this village?" The old man replied, "Nope, only babies."

David developed skills to be the person God intended him to be- v36 'Your servant

has killed both lion and bear'

- David was faithful in his role as a shepherd boy. He took his role so seriously that he risked his life on a number of occasions by attacking wild animals- lions and bears that attacked the sheep. In those days both bears and lions were wild in Israel. David had spent time in the quiet place with the Lord, working on his music skills, working on his fighting skills, developing his pastoral care and his relationship with God.
- God gifts us, but those gifts need honing, developing, training. God will bring others into our lives to be role-models to us. He will give us opportunities to use our gifts, but we need to take those opportunities and not let them pass us by. A person with the gift of tongues needs to speak it out, and then it will grow. Gifts grow the more they are used, just like a muscle. David said he couldn't use Saul's armour because he was not USED to it. It was, however, used to using the sling. If we want to be an athlete we need to train. If we want to hear the voice of God we need also to train ourselves in the art of listening to God.
- We can only reproduce on the outside what we cultivate on the inside. We need to spend time with God in the secret place to see things manifest openly. Jesus spent much time alone with His Father and the manifestation of this was in His Spirit-led ministry. This week chatting to someone about the Lord, trying to convince them of the gospel, thought- man I need to be moving more in the power of God to convince people- words of knowledge, signs and wonders. Got to start leaning more on the Lord, and having a prophetic flow, and then will see more fruit. Learn to lean.
- David tried on Saul's armour but it didn't fit, so he resorted to his shepherd's gear- shepherd's bag, sling, staff and stones. David was well-versed in the art of being himself. So should we be. We should make it our aim to be all that God intended us to be, and not to be chasing after anything God has not intended us to be. Are we comfortable in our own skin? David was, and that made him victorious. Be set free today to be victoriously.. you!
- Sylvester Stallone said these things after making Rocky 6 "I was raised in a Catholic home, a Christian home, and I went to Catholic schools and I was taught the faith and went as far as I could with it," Stallone said. "Until one day, you know, I got out in the so-called real world and I was presented with temptation. I kinda like lost my way and made a lot of bad choices." Somewhere along the way, Stallone realized his fame was not the most important part of his life. Now he says God can help a person overcome his past. "The more I go to church," he said, "and the more I turn myself over to the process of believing in Jesus and listening to His Word and having Him guide my hand, I feel as though the pressure is off me now." Stallone, in the interview, compared the need for church to the need for a physical trainer. "You need to have the expertise and the guidance of someone else. You cannot train yourself," he said. "I feel the same way about Christianity and about what the church is: The church is the gym of the soul."

David leaned on God- v46 'This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand', v47 'The battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands'

- 'We all need somebody to lean on'- David leaned on God, why don't we? God was his Superhero who would slay the villain.
- Goliath went towards David, but David quickly ran at Goliath and the whole Philistine army, it would seem to certain death. Why? He was trusting in 'the LORD of hosts'- means the lord of armies- i.e. God is a war veteran, tougher than any army- He is the ultimate ruler of all armies in that all armies cower beneath His supreme rulership. He has powerful angels to do His bidding, that can decimate entire armies overnight (e.g. Assyrian army). You don't mess with God. You may, miraculously get away with it in this life, you won't in the next. Bend now to His rule whilst you still have the chance.
- We are sometimes apologetic as Christians, but the Kingdom of God is His heavenly rule invading Earth, and it is violent. Demons shriek in response.

Strongholds are broken. People are healed and set free from captivity. There is laughter and joy. This is a holy war, but one of love- a God who is extreme in His love for mankind, Who went to extreme measure to win our hearts and lives. You can't stop love- love will have it's way in the end. This is God's kingdom- love breaking through. Love never fails.

- **David knew God was for him, even when others weren't.** 'Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.' (Ps 27:10) His dad had not asked him to come and see Samuel at the anointing of one of his 8 sons to be king of Israel, and yet he was God's actual choice. Do you know you are God's choice, even though you may not be certain people's choice. Eph 1:4 'God chose us, in Him, before the foundation of the world...'
- And he was the youngest. Despite having been chosen by God in his father Jesse's presence as the next King of Israel Jesse still has him running back and forth as an errand boy bringing the packed lunch to his brothers on the front line! David himself should have been on the front line, having been chosen as one of Saul's shield bearers previously, when playing harp for the king to soothe his demonic problems.
- Despite all the road-blocks put in his way by others, God opens up the way for David to come firstly into the King's presence through the harp. Don't think when God gives you favour, and brings you before great people it is your own doing- He is able to open doors, and He is also able to close them shut. If we want the blessings to continue we must keep humble.
- When David offers to slay Goliath the oldest brother Eliab hears him and sneers at him and accuses him of just coming as a spectator- really Eliab is jealous, as he was the older brother and probably believed he deserved to be anointed before David.
- When Saul sees David he isn't at all convinced he, as a youth, could slay Goliath. When he does slay Goliath he rewards him but later is jealous of him and grows to hate him to the point of tryin to take his life on a number of occasions.
- When Goliath sees David he despises him and hurls insults at him.
- Despite all this, David KNOWS God is for him, and this enables him to be victorious against Goliath. He knew God's grace- God was for him even though he didn't deserve it. Do you know God is for you. Rom 8:31 'If God is for us who can be against us?' Like David, we can know that in all situations we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Rom 8:37). It is knowing that God really loves us and is for us that enables us to be victorius. God proved He is for us by sending His Son to the cross on our behalf. He couldn't be more for you. He wants you to not only get to Heaven, but to succeed in all you do, to His glory, and to bear much fruit.
- Max Lucado- God's faithfulness has never depended on the faithfulness of his children. He is faithful even when we aren't. When we lack courage, he doesn't. He has made a history out of using people in spite of people. Need an example? The feeding of the five thousand. It's the only miracle, aside from those of the final week, recorded in all four Gospels. Why did all four writers think it worth repeating? . . . Perhaps they wanted to show how God doesn't give up even when his people do. . . .When the disciples didn't pray, Jesus prayed. When the disciples didn't seek God, Jesus sought God. When the disciples were weak, Jesus was strong. When the disciples had no faith, Jesus had faith. I simply think God is greater than our weakness. In fact, I think it is our weakness that reveals how great God is. . . .God is faithful even when his children are not. As you stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee, will you still the storms that rage within our hearts? Will you calm the whirling winds of fear and hurt that threaten our faith?

Summary

- Develop character. Train to be the person God made you to be. Lean on God

Song: *In heavenly armour*

- Goliath, said Aren Maeir, who directed the excavation. "Here we have very nice evidence the name Goliath appearing in the Bible in the context of the story of David and Goliath ... is not some later literary creation," Professor Maeir said of the rust-coloured ceramic. Professor Maeir said the shard, possibly part of a bowl, had been found two metres underground at Tell es-Shafi. The mound where the dig took place is widely believed to be the site of the ancient city of Gath, which the Bible calls Goliath's home town. The specimen, from about 900 BC, is not old enough to have belonged to Goliath, who lived around 1000 BC, Professor Maeir said. The First Book of Samuel spoke of "a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath", a giant who challenged an Israelite to a duel. David took up Goliath's challenge and "prevailed over the Philistine" with a sling and a stone. "Most of what we know about the Philistines is from the Bible's point of view," Professor Maeir said. "When we look at the Philistines from an archaeological point of view we get evidence of a very rich, dynamic, fascinating and advanced culture."
- Philistines came from Ham- Amos 9:7 says God brought the Philistines up from Caphtor. Philistine is a root from where we get the word Palestine.
- The reference in the Genesis account to 'Caphtorim' is thought to be the large island called Crete (now part of Greece), to which the so-called 'sea peoples' had migrated. The Philistines are therefore an ancient people whose roots go back to the time when, after the Flood, the earth was repopulated in accordance with the Divine will and purpose.
- Around 1200 BC the Philistines migrated in great numbers to Canaan after the great sea battle with the Egyptians. On the walls of Ramses III's temple of Medinet Habu there are reliefs showing the battle with the Philistines (ANEP 1969, figs. 7,9,57,& 341; Yadin 1963, 336-43; Dothan 1992, 16-22). In the topographical list of Ramses III the city of Jacob-El is listed as well as the city of Levi-El (ANET 1969, 242-3).
- In the book of Judges the Philistines do not come into the picture until the end of the judges with Samson (Bimson 1981, 86-88). So most of the book deals with problems before the Philistines came to power in 1200 BC. The Philistines probably fled their homeland of Crete after the eruption of Santorini on the island of Thera. They are mentioned in the Iliad of Homer (Book I, Bierling 1992, 51, 72). Probably after the Trojan War the Philistines migrated south and tried to take over Egypt. Because they were not successful they settled in Canaan.
- There are five groups of sea people, Philistines, Tjeker, Shekelesh, Denye(n), and Weshesh (ANET 1969, 262). One group of sea peoples called "Denye(n)" or "Dannuna" is what Dothan suggests could be the tribe of Dan in the Bible (1992, 215-19; Iliad, Book 1.56, 87).
- The IVF New Bible Dictionary suggests that the Philistines were indeed one of the sea peoples from the Aegean, who migrated by both land and sea to Canaan or Palestine, where they forced a foothold. It is suggested that they were at first mercenary soldiers of the Pharaohs and the Hittite kings, before they settled in Philistia and became essentially Canaanites. The principal cities of the Philistines were Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath and Ekron, situated in the Southwest of Palestine and there are many references to these cities in the Bible.
- Philistines -Hebrew: plishtim-Ancient Egyptian: Peleset;
- People living in Palestine since the 12th century BCE.
- It is from the Philistines that the land designation 'Palestine' has been derived. Goliath, from the Biblical battle between with future King David, was a Philistine.
- Political organization
- The territory they inhabited was the Palestinian coast into Judah, forming a federation of 5 cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath and Ekron) and was known as Philistia; the Land of the Philistines. Each city enjoyed great autonomy and was ruled by a seranim, the head of a council. After their defeat to King David of Judah, the seranim was replaced with kings, ruling virtually independent from a council.
- The Philistines were famous for their skills in producing iron products.
- The Philistines originated from somewhere in the Aegean Sea named Caphtor, which possibly was Crete. Archaeological finds show many similarities with Mycenaean cultures, like pottery with links to 13th century Mycenaean pottery. They were not ethnically Semitic and did not have a Semitic culture, though they soon adopted to local culture, religion and language. The Philistines never left Palestine, but merged since the late 1st millennium BCE with other peoples of the region.
- The Philistines had their own language, most probably of Indo-European origin, but there are no written documents from it. Their language was soon replaced with Canaanite, then Aramaic and eventually Greek.
- Of their religion, very little is known. Their gods are mentioned in Biblical and other sources, but then renamed to fit Semitic categories or language.
- 1190: The Philistines either join the Sea People,- or they are one of the Sea Peoples,- in an invasion of Egypt. Egyptian records name them prst. They are expelled by King Ramses 3.
- 12th century BCE: After being expelled from Egypt, the Philistines settle along the Palestinian coast, south of Joppa (modern Tel Aviv, Israel). According to Egyptian sources, this happened under the administration of Ramses 3.— The Philistines advance in from the coast, and soon come in conflict with the Israelites.
- Around 1050: Part of the Judean hill country is occupied.
- 10th century: The Philistines are defeated by King David of Judah. The Philistines would thereafter form small city communities.— Israel and Judah splits, allowing the Philistines to regroup as larger state structures.
- 850: The Philistines sack Jerusalem. 8th century: The Philistines are defeated by Hezekiah, later king of Judah.
- 732: Philistine cities become vassals under the Assyrians.
- Late 7th century: Egypt replaces Assyria as lords of the Philistia.
- Early 6th century: Babylonia conquers the Philistine vassal cities. From this time on, the Philistine identity would disappear and they become part of other peoples.

- David Wilkerson wrote: "Don't be mistaken - faithful praying will not keep you out of a crisis. On the contrary, it will most likely bring you to a fired-up furnace ... and a lion's den. But prayer will prepare you to face it all with trust - to become a living sacrifice for Jesus' sake!"
- "Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace." Oswald Chambers, Run Today's Race
- Sam Jones once used this illustration: "I go to chop wood and you find me with my ax across my knees and not a chip in sight. You ask, 'Why are you not chopping wood?' I answer, 'I'm waiting until I work up a sweat first; then I'll chop wood.' The best way to work up a sweat is to chop wood." Faith will not get the job done. It must be followed by works.