

"True Warriors"

1 Samuel 17

1 Samuel 17:1-11 - A Flesh and Blood Enemy -

Precept: What I see with my physical eyes is never the whole story; there is a lot more.

1 Samuel 17:12-25 - Internal Enemies

Precept: Verses 24-25 reveal another enemy, fear.

Summary: Fear is always an enemy and it settles inside of us, but 1 Samuel 17:23 reveals the heart of David, who was curious about Goliath, but not afraid of him; he calls him what he is, an "*uncircumcised Philistine*" (17:26).

1 Samuel 17:26-37 - The Heart of a True Warrior

Precept: David is confident that he can defeat the giant, because his confidence is in the Lord and what he can do through David.

1 Samuel 17:38-52 - A Warrior's Battle

Precept: Physical battles can be momentarily important but spiritual battles have life implications.

1 Samuel 17:53-18:2 - The Spoils of Battle

Conclusion: This is the longest battle narrative in the story of David; contains more quotes than any other story and is the most descriptive account of a battle in the Old Testament. None of this was accidental. God wants us to understand what is at stake, not in physical battles; but what is at stake in spiritual battles.

The name 'Goliath' means "the man between two" and makes reference to two armies in our story. David stepped into this scene and became the man between two ways of seeing things and that designation sets him apart from other warriors in this story.

This is David's public "coming out". Samuel anointed him; God's Spirit rested on him, but he lived in the shadows, played his lyre for Saul and tended sheep. This was David's coming out party and his first real friend saw the Philistines the same way he saw them, "*uncircumcised Philistines*" (1 Samuel 14:6; 17:26).

There are two important notions in this epic battle; First, Goliath's thinking. Second, David's point of view and he stands with the God of Israel's army. These are two points of view in every battle. (1 Samuel 17:45) Jesus would be the next and he would fight the greatest spiritual battle ever waged, not in a valley between two armies but on a cross between the light and darkness, between the prince of the power of the air and the creator of all things.

What is the likelihood that David realized that what he was about to do would change his life? None! He had no idea and everyone around him thought he was being foolish and acting like an arrogant little brother. David had a heart 'after God' and that meant at this moment he would trust God, stand up for God's honor, be a blessing to his fellow countrymen and take on this "*uncircumcised Philistine*". God did the rest. I can do no better and this is at the core of a true warrior.