

**Sermon Notes: "Facing Your Giants" 1 Samuel 17:1-16, 20-24, 26
Sunday, October 2, 2016**

Here's what I've discovered about the giants that we face. Not all giants are stupid and slow. They are crafty, persistent, shrewd and deceptive. They often lurk and strike quickly when we're at our weakest. They seem to know us very well. Oh, and by the way, not all giants fall with the first shot. Some of them come back again and again and again.

And yes, we have one who is our adversary and seeks only to devour us. C. S. Lewis said this about the devil. is claimed by God and counter-claimed by "There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counterclaimed by Satan." "The enemy will not see you vanish into God's company without an effort to reclaim you."

I made 4 statements about giants two weeks ago that I believe are absolutely true.

- First, giants reveal our true character, revealing things about ourselves we would not otherwise see.
- Secondly, giants oftentimes stand between us and God's best.
- Thirdly, giants grow larger the longer we allow them to stand over us and have power over us.
- And the fourth was that giants reveal the size of our God.

I deliberately chose 2 different stories. The story of the spies. And the story of Goliath. And I did that for this reason: Not all giants are the same. Not all giants can be defeated in exactly the same way. Let me show you 4 giants that David dealt with & defeated in this story.

1. The first is the GIANT of inexperience or sense of inadequacy.

Three 3 things that David does to face the giant of inexperience and inadequacy.

- a) The first is that David had a continual awareness of his past successes and of God faithfulness in his life.
- b) The second thing that he does is that he waits for the right time. It appears that David came on the scene and defeated Goliath in a day. But on a closer reading of this passage you'll notice that the process went on for 40 days.
- c) The third thing that he does is he commits himself to do what needs to be done. He takes the risk. He steps forward. He does not sit & wallow in his own sense of inadequacy & inexperience.

2. The second GIANT is one that probably is the most difficult. They are the giants that rule over our emotions. 17:28. In this experience of David, the very first significant giant David faced this day was walking into that camp and stepping up to do battle was the disdain, the anger, and the jealousy he felt from his older brother as he heard those words spoken against him. Here's what David does.

- a) First, David recognizes that Eliab's problem is Eliab, not David.
- b) Secondly, David ignores Eliab. David turns his back on him, and he turns his attention to what he is called to do. David seeks to act with integrity and he does not allow himself to be brought into a different fray.

3. The third GIANT are those who are over us positionally or with authority.

David has to deal with Saul, who is king. These are people who want you, as *Saul* did with *David*, to fit into their image, to wear their armor. Notice the significant thing that David does in dealing with Saul. He tries it. And then he says, "*This is not me.*" He does not try to be somebody he is not. God had prepared David differently and with different abilities and gifts than Saul. David grabs our attention by his vigor, his energy, his wholeheartedness, his God-heartedness.

Every event in his life was a confrontation with God.

4. The last GIANT that David faces is the obvious one—Goliath.

The course David sets reveals a person who is fully dependent upon the Lord and realizes that the battle can only be won in the presence and the power of the Lord. John White said this, "*True courage consists not in the absence of fear, but in doing what God wants even when we are afraid.*"

Giants continually teach us new lessons about ourselves and especially about our God. Are we going to be shaped by our fears of Goliath and these other giants, or by God?