

## AN UNDERDOG STORY?

We all love a good underdog story – the bigger, badder, and stronger the enemy, the sweeter and more satisfying the victory.

**Malcolm Gladwell:** ... much of what we consider valuable in our world arises out of these kinds of lopsided conflicts, because the act of facing overwhelming odds produces greatness and beauty.

More is written in the Bible about David than any other person except for Jesus.

Abraham and Joseph have 14 chapters devoted to their lives.

David has 66 chapters devoted to his life.

David is mentioned \_\_\_ times in the New Testament.

David wrote at least 72 Psalms.

David was a Renaissance man \_\_\_\_\_ years before the Renaissance.

He was a war hero, a harpist, a shepherd, a mastery artillery soldier, a King, a poet.

David's story is a story like ours: great triumph and great failure, all mixed in one man.

**1 Samuel 17.1-9, 32-51:** Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle... And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us..."

And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall

be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!”

Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.” So David put them off. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.”

When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone and struck the Philistine and killed him.

There was no sword in the hand of David. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

## **THE TRUE LESSONS FROM DAVID AND GOLIATH**

### **1. LESSON FROM DAVID: YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ IS GOOD ENOUGH.**

We are born with a natural, sinful tendency to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 12.4:** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

**Three types of warriors:** the cavalry, the heavy infantry, and the artillery, also called \_\_\_\_\_.

Goliath was heavy infantry, trained to fight face-to-face.

David was artillery, trained to fight long-distance.

David refuses to fight using someone else's armor (1 Samuel 17:39)

Slingers could kill birds midflight and had the potential to hurl a projectile with the same force as a .45 caliber bullet flying out of a pistol.

David used his own gifting, his own strength, and his own talent, to topple Goliath.

## **2. LESSON FROM GOLIATH: YOU ARE NEVER TOO \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_.**

Goliath has swagger: he comes forward each day, mocking the Israelites and their God. He sees David, a runt, a good-looking puny shepherd boy, and thinks it will be a quick battle.

One theory is that Goliath suffered from acromegaly – a disease caused by a benign tumor in the pituitary gland.

The tumor creates an abundance of human growth hormone, in addition to \_\_\_\_\_ problems.

Perhaps Goliath was over \_\_\_\_\_ for his weakness.

He found strength and solace in his stature and weapons, but those qualities weren't enough to save him from his mortality.

## **LESSON FROM THE ISRAELITES: YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ HAS ALREADY BEEN \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Valley of Elah was between the mountains of the east and the coastland of the west.

It was a strategic location to control.

Goliath and the Philistines came from Crete and settled on the coast.

The Israelites were clustered in the mountains.

Neither army risked going on the offensive – they would become quickly vulnerable to attack.

So, both armies agreed on a common practice: “war by proxy” or “\_\_\_\_\_ combat.”

The one victor would claim victory for the entire army, even though they had no part in the battle.

The story of David and Goliath ultimately points to a Greater David, who fights the battle against sin and death, wins the cosmic war, and allows us to share in the \_\_\_\_\_.