

*Facing Your Giant*  
*(Turnpike Wesleyan – August 11, 2019)*

***Scripture Text: I Samuel 17:32-51***

“Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”

“Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.” But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!” Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!” Then Saul gave David his own armor - a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. “I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So, David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine. Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled. David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies - the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!” As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. So, David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. Then David ran over and pulled Goliath’s sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran.

## *Introduction*

And, although you and I will never have to face **Goliath** from Gath ... good thing for his very presence would have caused my meltdown (tell of Kenneth Yeager in Garden City, Ks.) ... we still face personal **giants**, some of **monstrous** proportions.

This account reminds us that there is **hope** and that no matter how small we appear to be to the giant, **underdogs** can win ... can overcome!

But we need to be careful with this story. We must avoid letting it **degenerate** into a **moralistic** example of how the weak and the good can triumph over the strong and the evil. This is a Biblical story with spiritual significance. It is a story not about David's **miracle** but about God's **power** and how, by **faith**, we can possess this awesome power!

*No one is **exempt** from giants.*

The wherewithal that you and I possess to defeat our giants is not in **self-helps** or the **weapons** that we have sharpened up on ... it is knowing **personally** the Lord of hosts. We then can say boldly to our enemy, "I come to you in the name of the Lord, so get lost or go down!"

Another thing I need to mention quickly – there are no new **giants** out there. Some may be new to you and your experience in life, but all giants are ancient ... they just simply change their **costumes**.

*Concentrate on facing **today's** giants.*

Read Matt. 6:34 ... "Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for the day."

This verse is providing great freedom to you and to me. It offers us **deliverance** from trying to bear burdens **prematurely**. For all our tomorrows God simply invites us to trust Him!

Maybe that was a lesson the Lord was driving at with the manna ... ask for your **daily** bread (no more-no less) for anything beyond that begins to stink and breeds maggots.

*Be **careful** what you put on for **armor**.*

Some of us today are wearing the armor of self-sufficiency or of pretense. Some of us feel secure because of our savings accounts and stocks & bonds. Some have built a fortress around themselves with religious gobble-dee-gook and nonsense ... yes, some have even convinced themselves that their armor of good works will stand the test of time.

Heed the words of Ephesians 6:10-17: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.