

## Empowered For Service 1 Samuel 17

Last time, that is before my vacation,  
we began to study the life of David.  
This a very worth while thing to do.  
David was a person after God's own heart.  
David was a person with whom God was well pleased  
who became the greatest King Israel ever had.  
The person who gave us a vision for the kingdom of God.  
When we first meet David in the bible  
he is an insignificant 12 year old boy tending animals.  
Doing all the dirty work.  
He was a nobody,  
an eighth child with a pretty bleak future.

But the amazing thing is  
God does not look at outward appearances, out outward circumstances  
God looks at the heart, and  
God chose David to be his servant.  
God anointed him and filled him with his spirit.  
God gifted him with extra ordinary musical skill.  
And by using his spiritual gifts David became a source of  
healing and grace in the lives of others, and  
built up the people of God.

Today we read the first story about David.  
The story that everyone knows.  
The story that defines the life of David and the  
giant task his life would accomplish.  
The story of how little David defeated the giant Goliath.  
It's a story that everyone knows and we love to see happen.  
We like to see little people,  
underdog people, defeat champions.  
A lot of people a couple of months ago were cheering any  
team that would knock off those  
cocky, threepeat Lakers.  
Maybe it would be that little Allen Iverson many hoped.  
We all love a David and goliath story.

One of the first videos we owned as a family  
was the Hoosiers. It's a David and Goliath story.  
Its about a small high school in a small town,  
with a lousy basketball team and a long tradition  
of loosing every year to the big guys.

Well, in comes a loser coach, Gene Hackman,  
who had been fired as a teacher in another place,

but who through hard work and discipline and encouragement and faith makes the loosing Hoosiers into the little team that could knock off the big guy schools and win the state championship. It's a wonderful David and Goliath type story. We all love to see the little guy defeat the evil bully giant.

But is that what this story is all about?  
Is God a god of the little guy,  
is the God of the bible someone  
who enjoys knocking off the giants?  
I don't think that is the point.

The point of this story is  
how we relate to mission of God in the world.  
Let me ask you a question.  
What is our purpose in life? Why do we exist?  
Why were we created?  
To bring glory to God, to lift up on high the name of Jesus,  
to be Christ in the world.

That was the calling of Israel too.  
That is the calling of the people of God.  
To bring glory to God, to be Christ in the world.  
But look at what Israel was doing in this story.

The powers of the world were ridiculing the God of Israel.  
The strongest nation in the world,  
the nation that had invented iron works, the Philistines  
were degrading the Name of God.  
They had the most sophisticated weapons,  
iron spears, metal spoked chariots.  
And they were using their power to dishonor God,  
to put down the people of God.  
They were blaspheming God.  
And no one in Israel was brave enough, and  
passionate enough to take a stand for God.  
Saul their tall king, all the older brothers in the army,  
chosen to uphold the honor of God and  
protect the people of God were  
afraid and did nothing.

What did David have that no one else had?  
Why did David fight Goliath?  
David's older brothers (v.28) accused him  
of neglecting his own business and his own job,

they accused him of being conceited.  
They accused him of having an evil heart.  
Of being ambitious.  
Of wanting to make a name for himself.  
They accused him of wanting to be part of the action  
when he had no business being there.  
They accused him of wanting only to watch the battle.  
To be a spectator in the mission of God.  
But we know better.

David volunteered to fight Goliath because  
Goliath was defying God.

When God chose David and filled him with his spirit,  
a passion for the name and honor of God  
stirred in his heart, and  
he became a willing servant to do anything God  
was asking him to.

David was anointed by the spirit of God.  
David was filled with a passion for God and his glory.  
And so when the challenge was made  
David didn't have to think twice, or  
spend weeks in prayer, or counting the cost or  
his resources.  
He didn't start brushing up the course he took.  
When he heard the Goliath challenge  
David stepped up to the plate to do his part.  
He didn't come to be a spectator to watch the battle.  
Here I am, said David,  
I your servant will fight the giant.  
I will fight this thing that so dishonors the name of God.  
Here I am, I want to get involved in the mission of God.

Look at why David was so fearless and so full of faith  
v.45 -47.

David fought the giant,  
David stepped up to the task of ministry so that  
the whole world would know God (46),  
and see the glory of God.  
David stepped up to the plate so that everyone would  
know that God saves (47),  
so that people would hear the gospel,  
not through powerful weapons, and human military  
machinery, or political maneuvering,  
but through boys and girls, and  
what seems like incompetent people like David

who in faith, and without any military garb,  
step up to the plate and do the ministry God  
prepares for them to do.  
And God himself, through the service of people like David,  
brings glory to his name.

During our flight back to LA last week I was reading a  
chapter in Ray Anderson's book the soul of ministry.  
He says "I was just starting my lecture when a pastor  
raised her hand and asked:  
"I don't understand why my attempts to mobilize the  
members of the church for ministry do not  
seem to get off the ground.  
I've tried small group training sessions,  
I've introduced disciplining programs,  
I've used spiritual gift inventories.  
I have a lot of well equipped people but  
still little ministry is going on.

Then Ray asked the class of pastors.  
"What about your own ministries.  
You all had professional training and  
should be well equipped for ministry.  
Does ministry effectiveness increase with better  
method's of equipping or more education?"

Ray's answer to the pastors was "Remember David."

David enthusiastically volunteered and fought Goliath  
not because he was so well equipped and  
trained or had an M Div degree.  
The point in this story is that David was under equipped.  
Saul tried to bolster up his equipment.  
Saul gave him his armor and his spear.  
But this equipment did not fit David.  
It made him less ready for the task.

David went forth under equipped,  
but empowered by the spirit of God.

It was the same with the disciples of Jesus.  
Jesus called his disciples to a giant mission.  
Go and make disciple of all nations  
baptizing them in the name of Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
teaching the gospel of Jesus.

For them to get involve with this mission did not require  
more education, more bible study, more equipping.  
Jesus told his disciple to go to Jerusalem and  
wait for power from on high. Power from on high.  
That is what we need.  
That is what David had. Power from on high.

And how do we get empowered from on high?  
Again Ray Anderson says “remember David.”

Spiritual empowerment comes from using  
the rather insignificant things we have and can do,  
to accomplish significant things  
through the power of God’s spirit.

Use what you have  
attempt more than you can do and  
God will do the rest.

David used what he had,  
David attempted more than he could do,  
And God gave him the victory.

It was true for the disciples too.  
They used what they had,  
They attempted more than what they could do  
And God did the rest.

That’s true for us to.  
Use what you have,  
Attempt more than you can do  
And we too will be persons after God’s own heart  
Doing extra ordinary things for the glory of God.