

BRING IT ON

A NEW YEAR SERMON SERIES

WINNING APPROACH(Week 4)

WELCOME: What was the biggest insult you ever received? How did you deal with it?

WORSHIP: Sing “MIGHTY WARRIOR” by Elevation Worship (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_x1YtjOnwk)

WORD:

Read **1 Samuel 17:24-51**

We learned in the past two weeks that we all have gigantic challenges. These giants could be in the general form of relational issues, personal attitudes, unhealthy habits, high hurdles, strong addictions. In specific forms, they have various names like lust, pornography, fear, worry, alcohol, drugs, sex, pride, anger, jealousy, greed, rebellion, depression, laziness, etc. These giants hinder our progress towards the purpose for which God calls us. These giants are thieves and vampires that steal and suck the joy, passion and excitement we have in the Lord. Every negative spirit that tries to taunt and enslave us is a giant we need to face and fight as we become the person God created us to be. Last Sunday, we learned about the three approaches to facing giants. What are these three approaches?

1. THE CYNICAL APPROACH (VERSES 28-30).

According to verses 10-11, the entire army of Israel and the king were afraid of the giant. Twice a day for forty days, the giant would come out and taunt the people of Israel. None of them had the courage to face the giant. For forty days, all they could do is listen to the giant intimidate them and insult God. The overwhelming size of the giant made them think that there is no other way to fight it. They all grew negative.

- Last week, we learned that some of us have grown accustomed to living under the shadow and intimidation of our giants, we think that the issues we face are things we simply need to embrace and live with for the rest of our lives. Many of us cannot experience victory because of that.
- What giants have you learned to live with? What reason do you have for not fighting against it?
- Any excuse or reason you might have to fight your giant is nothing more than a lie that the enemy instilled in your mind.

When David asked a simple question about the giant, the answer he received was an accusation from his very own brother, Eliab. He was accused of pride and deceit. At this point, we see here that sometimes, the very people who we look to for answers may accuse us of wrong motives and question our ability to follow God. The Enemy (Satan) is like that, he will always have an accusation that threatens our ability to follow God. Whenever we try to step out in faith or attempt to honor God with anything in our lives, the Enemy will accuse us in an attempt to discourage our faith. God, on the other hand, will never accuse us.

- God will convict you in order to change you, but He will never accuse you in order to shame you.
- When David received a cynical answer, he turned away. We must learn to turn away from the Enemy's accusations and get better at ignoring the Enemy than he is at accusing us.
- Have you ever been accused by the very people you were trying to help? How did it make you feel?
- What accusations are you currently up against? Which accusations are grounded in opportunities for you to grow? Which ones do you need to turn away from altogether? What are you doing to respond to these?

2. THE CARNAL APPROACH (VERSES 32-39).

David's simple question led him to King Saul (verse 30). It was there that David presented himself to fight the giant (verse 32). The king responded with an insult (verse 33). All that the king was seeing at that moment was an unrealistic conceited teenager. When David explained how his experience as a shepherd trained him to fight, the king agreed to let him fight Goliath. Perhaps in the mind of the king, if David gets killed, he's just one little casualty of war. A lot of times, the Enemy (Satan) uses

our limitations to belittle us into doubting our calling. But like David, rehearse and remember the victories God has already won for us. Remember, that being faithful in the little things prepared him for the bigger battle. The bigger the battle, the bigger the blessing.

- Have you ever been belittled by someone else? How did that affect you?
- Do you ever belittle yourself in your own mind? When do you find yourself doing this?
- How can you use God's past faithfulness to turn away from the belittling that threatens your faith?

King Saul gave orders to dress David for battle with his very own armor. This was his carnal (fleshly) approach! If David was going to fight, he wanted David to rely on an armor to protect the boy. But David refused to wear the armor because it was cumbersome. That was not how he learned how to fight.

- Sometimes, we rely on things (cumbersome armors) that only make the battle more difficult.
- What are some examples "armors" that people use to fight their personal giants?
- Some people try psychotherapy, counseling, anti-depressants, drugs, alcohol, relationships, information overload, etc. to fight their giants. They forget the spiritual aspect of the battle by using non-spiritual armor to fight spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:10-12). Every giant is of spiritual nature and must be fought in the Spirit.
- David's fight was physical, but he fought it with spiritual strength. That means, even though many of the issues we face exhibit themselves in the physical sense, the root of it is spiritual.
- Do not approach your giants using armor that will only make things worse.

3. THE CHAMPION APPROACH (VERSES 40-51)

David's only weapon was his sling, but his primary confidence is in God. The champion approach is to fight the giant in our life by keeping our distance. Distance makes anything look smaller! David was a slinger, and a slinger always fights at a distance, but maintains singular focus. The Enemy recognizes the advantage we have when we distance ourselves from him. When we get too close to the giant, we fight him on his terms. But that is not the champion approach! The champion approach is, to fight the enemy on your terms using weapons God has given you, and strength of His Spirit in you. That means, you do not fight alone!

- David did not fight harder, he fought smarter. Battling a giant is not won by hand-to-hand combat. All David needed was his sling and a stone shot from a distance.
- David had faith that gives birth to action (applying what he learned from his faithfulness to the little things) and he believed that if he will "defend" the honor and glory of God, he will not fail (verse 46).
- Every spiritual battle you are in is the enemy's way of keeping you from experiencing the fullness of God's favor and victory in your life. Every attack on you is an attack on the God you believe in.
- Some people fight giants hand-to-hand, and end up giving up. We must learn to distance ourselves from the giants so we can fight them wisely. Stay away from things and situations that would make the giants look bigger and stronger (James 4:7).
- The Enemy doesn't want to battle us on the battle lines, he wants to battle us in our minds. All Goliath was good at was to taunt. He psyched the army of Israel to fear, and he tried to psych David to lose. Train yourself to be spiritually wise by renewing the way you think (Romans 12:2). The best way to keep us from believing lies is by filling our minds with God's truth!
- Your victory is meant to display the existence and power of God (verse 46)!
- Make God known by living like a champion! Read Romans 8:31-37!

WORKS:

- SHARE ABOUT YOUR GIANTS, PLANS, HOPES AND DESIRES FOR 2017.
 - Pray for a champion attitude as you fight the giants you will or currently face.
 - Pray for your professional, financial plans that will be aligned with God's purpose.
 - Pray for your family! Believe that 2017 will be a year of breakthroughs for you!
 - Pray for your calling. Have you identified the two people (or more) that you are going to reach for Christ this year.
 - Pray for your church. May we all be willing to be God's champions of faith in this region!

NEW SERIES BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12:

RELATIONSHIP STATUS. We all have questions concerning dating, singleness, marriage and sex. This series will deal with all of those topics in light of the Bible, which is the basis and authority for our salvation, life and godliness. BRING FRIENDS!