

OWN THE PURSUIT

Devotionals for 21 Day Fast

DAY 17: Tuesday, February 1st — *SLAY THE GIANT*

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

—[1 Samuel 17:45-49](#)

The Shepherd Who Slew a Giant

David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s and he will give all of you into our hands.

Israel was in peril. The Philistine army had come to fight; the armies faced each other from opposite sides of a valley near Jerusalem. Each day, the Philistines sent their champion to taunt the Israeli army and offer single combat. For forty days, no one in Israel—not even King Saul—took up the challenge.

Goliath was big. He stood nearly 10 feet tall, held a spear with a 15-pound tip, and wore 125 pounds of armor. He struck fear in the hearts of the army of Israel. But one young man was not afraid.

I am drawn to the part of the story where King Saul has David try on the royal armor and hold the royal sword. Saul assumed that David would surely need these. But David stuck with what he knew, what he was gifted at, and refused the expectations of the king. David knew that God was with His people and that God was with him. He knew that God would protect him much better than a king’s armor. David relied on God and what God had taught him when he was a young shepherd boy protecting his flock of sheep.

When we teach this story, we often focus on the mismatch of the two champions and the power of God displayed through David. We are encouraged by a tale where an underdog comes out ahead. But I think there is another lesson, a lesson similar to the widow’s offering ([Mark 12:41-44](#)), the boy with five loaves of bread and two fish that fed five thousand ([John 6:9](#)), and the simple words of a young virgin: “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled?” ([Luke 1:38](#))

David knew something we should learn: **God only needs the willing**, those who bring what little they have and let God perform the miracles.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- ▶ Have you ever volunteered to do the seemingly impossible?
- ▶ Have you ever rejected the expectations of the world and the protection offered to you, as David did with Saul’s armor?
- ▶ When was the last time you presented yourself, and your gifts, before God and trusted in His miracles?

(Source: <https://wheatonbible.org/daily-devotional/the-shepherd-who-slew-a-giant/>)

LIFE APPLICATION

Road Test

Win the Right to Share the Gospel

Time for Tune up

Check your Fluids Level

- *Grace Level*
- *Salt*
- *Gentleness*
- *Respect*
- *Ability to Answer*
- *Life consistently reflect Christ and what you believe*

Devotional Text

- 1 Samuel 17:45-49
- Mark 12:41-44
- John 6:9
- Mark 16:15
- Luke 1:38

