

Father's Day
June 20, 2021

"A Real David and Goliath Story"

There are times our lives are a real David and Goliath Story. And in truth, "David and Goliath Stories" are not happy go lucky – but unnerving and intimidating: "*There doesn't seem to be any way out*" stories.

Managing our David and Goliath stories requires **we pull the focus of the lens back** from the two combatants on the field of battle. There is history behind this story *which underpins David's place in it*. Remember, God sent Samuel to anoint David as the new king of Israel. By the standards we use to decide if something will work the whole situation was a mess. Samuel anoints the youngest son of a marginal family in the kingdom at a time when the kingdom is hanging by a thread. Did David want to be the leader of a failing kingdom? But anointed he is. His destiny is tied to God's life.

I invite you to understand yourself as David was in our story: ***Chosen and marked for service***. It is said that in his darkest nights of the soul Martin Luther used to cry out, "***I have been baptized!***" And so have we. Remember your baptism when you find the circumstance intimidating. *You are chosen and marked for service*. It underpins your place in this life.

David went to Saul - and Saul gave him lots of good reasons to avoid Goliath, and David would have none of them. Then, Saul tried to give David his armor. You would think armor would come in handy in a battle like that. But David didn't want it. The armor wasn't his. It didn't fit. It would hurt not help him. Is it any wonder Goliath – head to toe in armor didn't consider David a threat?

In the movie, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" all those years ago, you may remember they went south to find safety from those relentlessly tracking them down. They needed work and applied for a job as guards for the transfer of payroll. This was their job interview:

(Play clip from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid where the Mine manager tests Sundance ability with a gun and he is terrible holding still and good when he moves.)

Turns out David is like The Sundance Kid....He's better when he *moves in the ways he knows how*...and so are we.

When faced with a David and Goliath situation it is too easy to collapse into the "Best guess" phenomena like Saul and the army did. The best guess was no one could beat Goliath. Instead, we need to ***become fully who we are***. Digging deeply into *who God has made us to*

be. Giving up our guesses to engage in God's promises. The antidote to Goliath's bullying wasn't to bully back harder – it was to ***trust in the promises of the living God.*** It is more important that we grow into ***who God is making us to be*** than to simply allow the circumstance to mold us.

Even people who know nothing about the Bible know what it means to describe something with the phrase, “David and Goliath.” But **David isn't the hero of the story.** God is. God who is never mentioned when we talk about a real “David and Goliath story.” Why does this story grab us so easily? Perhaps it is those things in our lives we believe we cannot defeat. ***Those things which begin to appear as giants in our imaginations.***

God's good news today is that the faithfulness shown to David is ours as well. That in each of us there is a child of God waiting to take on the challenges God has for us.

What's the Goliath in your life? What terrifies you? What threatens what is dear to you? Can we find the courage ***to trust the God of the ages to lead*** and guide us through the time in which we live? When we calculate our answer to that question, are we thinking about ourselves, God, or both?

There are often Goliath's looming on the horizon. God's good news is, ***there is grace to face what scares us.*** May we discover that grace – and embrace adventurous lives of faith marked by the presence and victory of God – accomplished through who we already are – as a way for God to mold us into who we will be.