

Is There Not A Cause?

I Sam 17:1-58

Introduction:

- One of the most famous portions of Scripture
- The first time David speaks- and what he says is very telling!
- What cause are we fighting for? What is our big “Why?” for which we are putting our efforts and energy towards?

I. **GOD’S ADVERSARY/OPPONENT/COMPETITOR- V. 4-10**

- a. He was a “champion”
- b. His intimidating, and daunting description (list stats)
- c. Taking a cubit to be approximately eighteen inches and a span to equal six, this figures to a height of approximately nine feet, six inches. It seems Goliath may have had some Anakim blood in him (see Deuteronomy 9:2).
 - i. Goliath was from Gath and Joshua 11:22 says that a people known as the Anakim were still there in Joshua’s day. That was some 400 years before this, but it shows how there may have continued to be men of unusually large size from the city of Gath.
 - ii. Different sources give different estimates, but Goliath’s armor and weapons together probably weighed somewhere around 150 pounds. This was a big man, and strong enough to carry and use these huge weapons. (500 lbs?)
- d. His imposing stature-reminds us of I Sam 16:7
 - i. And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days: Day after day, Goliath taunted and mocked the armies of Israel, exposing them all (and especially Saul) as cowards.
 - ii. He caused the Israelite army to fear him- Satan’s strategy (roaring lion)
 - iii. The bigger they are the harder they fall!

e. V. 10, 26 He was really defying God

II. GOD'S SERVANT- V. 12-

a. David is sent to go check on his brothers v. 17-20

b. He is not concerned with his own glory- v. 26

c. (1Sa 17:25-27) David hears of Saul's reward to the man who beats Goliath, but he speaks of God's honor.

d. This truly shows David to be a man after God's own heart. He cares about the things God cares about. He saw the problem in spiritual terms, not in material or fleshly terms.

e. David is like Jonathan- taking initiative!- I Sam 14:1-2, 6

f. David rebuffed by his brother Eliab

i. "You're just here to see the battle!"

ii. Sometimes our greatest enemy- other Christians

g. David's burden- v. 29

i. When God gives you a specific burden, don't give up!

ii. What is your motive?

h. V. 33- more reasons why he won't succeed

i. V. 34-37- past victories from God encourage us and prepare us for future victories!

j. This is generally God's pattern for preparation. He calls us to be faithful right where we are and then uses our faithfulness to accomplish greater things. If David ran scared at the lion or the bear, he would never have been ready to fight Goliath now. But he was faithful then, so he will be faithful now.

k. V. 38-39- Saul's armor

i. The wisdom and power of this world is foolishness and weakness to God

ii. Ps 20:7- Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

iii. Sadly, many people would say the same about the armor of God: "I cannot walk with these, because I have not tested them." Are you more

familiar with the weapons and armor of the flesh or the weapons and armor of the Spirit? “Press some people to their exercise of prayer, or any other piece of the armour of God, and they must say, if they say truly, as here, I cannot do withal, for I have not been accustomed to it.” (Trapp)

- I. V. 42- David’s appearance (I Sam 16:7). Again, this was not what made someone a victor. Spiritually, David was the Giant!

III. **GOD’S HONOR AND GLORY- V. 46**

- a. This is something precious as we have seen in I Samuel (Ark of God, Dagon falling, etc.)
- b. Why did David choose five stones? He only needed one to kill Goliath. Perhaps it was because Goliath had four brothers (1 Samuel 21:18-22).
- c. He will give you into our hands: Again, notice David’s humility. It isn’t He will give you into my hands. David knows this was an “our” battle,
- d. David ran- “The lazy-bones of our orthodox churches cry, ‘God will do his own work’; and then they look out the softest pillow they can find, and put it under their heads, and say, ‘The eternal purposes will be carried out: God will be glorified.’ That is all very fine talk, but it can be used with the most mischievous design. You can make opium out of it, which will lull you into a deep and dreadful slumber, and prevent your being of any kind of use at all.” (Spurgeon)
- e. Goliath and the Philistines are defeated
- f. First, David made certain the enemy was dead. You can not mess around with sin
- g. The battle was for God’s name to be vindicated
- h. What is our motive in all that we do? (Prayer, revival, witnessing, etc?)
- i. We should have a burden and a jealousy for God’s name to be lifted up in our nation!

Conclusion:

- This is not a story about how we can defeat every enemy we face in life. This is a story about how God’s name should be lifted up and glorified in our lives! God’s reputation is at stake!

- There is a greater than David, who has already given us the victory!
- We must depend on Him! And make sure our motives for all that we do align with His will!