

Giants of the Faith

Faith - Defeating Your Trolls: Part 2

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SERMON DESCRIPTION

Before you can face your giants, you will have to defeat your trolls (i.e., external forces that want to rob you of your faith in God). These trolls can be subtle and come from the most unexpected sources, but make no mistake, if they are not addressed, it will cost you.

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What do they need to know?
 - Faith does not come naturally. It is something that we must contend for as followers of Christ.
2. Why do they need to know it?
 - Without faith it is impossible to please God.
3. How should we apply it?
 - Faith must be alive, active, and engaged—it is a muscle that must be exercised.

OPENING LINE

If you cannot overcome the troll, you have no business taking on Goliath.

INTRODUCTION

Troll: (definition) in mediaeval days, a troll was considered to be an ogre that lived under bridges and overpasses and made life miserable for those that were trying to cross its path. In our modern-day vernacular, a troll has become to describe an individual(s) on the internet that are irritating and a nuisance. Consider their behaviour, they:

- Follow you
- Stalk you
- Attack you verbally
- Irritate you
- Instigate you
- Belittle you
- Stand against you.

Note: The trolls are not the giants. They are merely external forces that must be defeated before you even get to go onto the field to face Goliath. However, they should not be avoided because God is using them to increase your faith—it is the process of development.

CENTRAL TRUTH

Repeatedly we have been instructed to ignore negativity and toxic adversity, but David faced it with full resolve and conviction. He addressed it, he stared it down, he moved forward, he was undaunted by all that stood against him, even from well-meaning people.

READING – MAIN PASSAGE

In the New Testament, David is called a prophet and there are key scriptures that speak about his life and ministry:

Acts 2:25

For David says concerning Him: 'I FORESAW THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE MY FACE, FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, THAT I MAY NOT BE SHAKEN.'

Psalms 16:8

I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

Acts 15:16

'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up;...

Act 13:22

And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all my will.'

SERMON SERIES – MAIN PASSAGE

Romans 4:16-21

¹⁶ Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ¹⁷ (as it is written, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." ¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

MAIN POINTS

When it comes to operating in our faith there will be no shortage of obstacles that we will have to overcome to accomplish our destiny in God.

There are four external forces that you will have to overcome to slay your giants; things you will face before you can you face your giant.

Secret sauce – David is equipped with the fresh realization that the Prophet Samuel has anointed him to be the next king over the nation. David understands his call, his purpose, and that his future has been promised by God.

After David is anointed, he is invited to the palace to play for the king and eventually becomes his armour bearer. Consider the following description of David, note that this is prior to him killing Goliath:

1Samuel 16:18

Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

Four External Forces to Overcome

1. His Father did not invite him to his own anointing – REJECTION that demoralizes
 - a. You will have to overcome your own family or those that are closest to you and their disbelief of your identity and your call
 - b. David was overlooked by his own father
 - In most cases they are your biggest detractors. For example:
 - Joseph, in the Old Testament, had to overcome the disbelief of his family and the betrayal of his brothers
 - Jesus had to overcome His own family; they did not believe in who He was at the beginning
 - This is the sin of familiarity!
 - c. Jesse doubted that the youngest of all his children, the one that was born out of wedlock of all people, would be the one that God would choose
 - d. Jesse did not even bother to call David or invite him to the anointing of one of his brothers
 - e. David was out of sight and out of mind, but God knew exactly where he was – **God knows your address, your current location—when He needs you, He will call for you**
 - f. His father clearly saw a shepherd boy, but God saw a king and a giant killer
 - g. The prescription: Show up when you are called.
2. Eliab (David's oldest brother) belittles him – CRITISM (demeans and/or discourages faith)
 - a. Eliab is a type of troll that attempts to put you down and discourage you by demeaning your actions, behaviour and/or activity.
 - b. Eliab is David's brother; ***you will always have to overcome your family before you fight Goliath***

- c. Eliab is not David's enemy, but he has his own heart issues:
 - His criticism is personal, cutting, and vindictive
 - It is rooted in self rejection and failure
 - If necessary, he will lie—the truth is of very little value to this troll
 - He hurls insults and accusations at David
 - Perhaps David stirred up Eliab's fear and insecurity
 - **People will project on you what is in their own heart, it is really about their issues not yours.**
- d. Eliab is not only his oldest brother, but he was also rejected by God to be the next king. Eliab represents those that should have had what would you have been given. He was rejected by God because of his heart issues.

1Samuel 17:28-29

²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence (deceit) of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle. ²⁹ And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

- All was good until David decided to inquire about Goliath and the fight – his questions elicited a strong response from his brother Eliab.
- The prescription: David turned away from him:
 - Respond with a question, state your position in simple terms, state the facts
 - David does not waste any time trying to explain the fact that his father had sent him down there and that he had not even come of his own volition
- **Do not attempt to have a crucial conversation with an "Eliab", it is a waste of time.**

3. King Saul doubts David's ability – DOUBT that disables faith

- a. Saul represents God's authority over the nation and over David – although he had also been rejected by God for his disobedience. The King is on his way out, but he does not even know it currently.
- b. King Saul is not David's enemy at that time, in fact, Saul loves him, and David is his armour bearer and plays for him at the palace. Saul recognizes the anointing on David's life because he had become his armour bearer

1Samuel 17:33-37

³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

- c. **David saw Goliath as dead before the battle**

- d. Pressure – Saul offers David the best equipment that the nation has to offer, and David says, “No!”
- e. The prescription: Draw from your previous victories and experiences, build your faith and what God has done for you.

If it does not fit you do not wear it no matter who it comes from, respectfully decline, and explain why

4. Goliath despised David – Ridicule and CURSES that derides and/or intimidates faith

- a. Goliath represents the enemy – the giant, the demonic realm. This is the real enemy that David faced, because Goliath was ready to kill him.
- b. Goliath represents more than just a troll; he is rather a gigantic obstacle that needs to be defeated and killed.
 - Goliath tried to intimidate David by deriding his faith, in other words, he tried to intimidate him and to discourage him
 - David does not ignore Goliath, nor does he ignore his insults—David responds to this mammoth human being with the word of the Lord
 - David communicates to Goliath the source of his faith, his hope, and his trust
 - David clearly indicates that he is not self-reliant but rather dependent on God for his power and his anointing
 - Goliath cursed him by his gods and subsequently brought the battle into a spiritual realm - it became demonic, therefore, David had to respond in like manner

1Samuel 17:42-44

⁴² And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. ⁴³ So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

- The prescription - bring God into the fight, make it His fight as well
 - Spiritual fights always require the word of the Lord, respond with the word of the Lord, with the scriptures
 - Every Goliath requires a response from God's word.

QUOTES

“Faith is a muscle that must be exercised.”

“We are always in a battle for our faith, we must always contend.”

“When we stop moving in faith, we become a monument; however, God wants us to be a movement.”

“Unless you defeat your trolls, you have no business being on the battlefield with Goliath.”

“When others criticize you, the better they feel about themselves.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been demeaned by someone? What emotions were released within you?
2. Describe a time when you used overcoming faith to win a victory? What was the outcome?
3. Consider a time where well-meaning people took on the role of being a troll in your life? How did you deal with it?
4. How have you utilized the word of the Lord against a Goliath in your life?
5. Consider how you have overcome the sin of familiarity in your life and ministry.
6. How does Goliath differ from a troll? What could he represent in everyday life?
7. How was David able to defeat the fact that he was being overlooked by his own father?