

# Disruptive Faith (1 Samuel 17)

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## Introduction

- Faith: A complete Trust or confidence in something
- Disrupt: to interrupt
- Disruptive Faith or Doubt?
- Often we want faith that augments or benefits our life, but the Lord gives grace and faith that disrupts our lives.
- This beloved story is not a story of courage or human effort; rather, it is the tale of bold faith built around the Lord.
- God give us faith that interrupts our lives and helps us live with Boldness for Jesus Christ

## 1 Samuel 17:1-8

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### Beware of your champions (1 Sam 17:4-7)

- Intimidation and fear in our lives walk hand in hand. Everything about Goliath screams intimidation!!! These fears of sometimes unrealized and irrational. At other times our fears are real, big, and scary (Goliath). We see in 1 Sam a man who refused to call, claim, and accept a sinful bully in his life.
  1. Are your sins bullying you?
- **Who said Goliath was a champion?** Surely this man was not champion over the Lord. Certainly this 9 foot man was not David's champion
  1. maybe this was Saul's champion. Saul was head and shoulders taller than everyone else. He was king and he was the man! Yet Saul the Benjamite (Benyamin) was face to face with the champion (hebrew Benayim)
- **We must not champion our fears, sins, and struggles.**
  1. The word champion literally signifies "the man between" that is the man who goes out between the opposed battle lines.
  2. We all have struggles and fears. We fear and champion men (people) and we fear and champion moments and we often fear and champion momentum (karma?).
- We must not let our champion struggles stand in the gap, stand in between our relationship with the Lord, stand in between our spiritual growth, stand in between standing up for Christ.
- What is your fear today? What do you struggle with? Have you designated something a champion in our live when Christ is already offering victory?

- The answer to our dark champions is **disruptive faith** in the Son of God. Do not let your fears disrupt your life. Let Christ give you victory .

## Lay aside your hindrances (1 Sam 17:16-21)

- As we have already seen in Scripture, our fears and earthly champions keep us from living a faithful life and having disruptive faith.
- Yet we all have something else in our life that slows us down in our faith journey and that is **responsibility**.
- What a great example we see in David’s life. He, the shepherd, delegates and leaves the flock with someone to keep it (17:20), he leaves his supplies in the care of the quartermaster (17:22), and he takes off the clothes/armor of the king (17:39)
  - Listen, he did not shirk his responsibilities, he took care of them. But he laid them aside to serve the Lord.
    - You cannot go fight Goliath with a flock of sheep.
      - Is God calling you to lay down, to say NO, to things you enjoy that you may live a freer life of Faith?
- There is another hindrance to David besides responsibility and that is **relationships** (17:27-28)
  - This is no relationships, this is the oldest brother. The one who has reason and experience on his side. This is the responsible brother and the one all of the youngest brothers look up to.
  - **This older brother demeans and attempts to humiliate David for his faith and his question. “who did you leave the few/little bit of sheep with.**
    - He even attacks the “arrogance and “evil heart” of David.
      - **13:14** But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”
  - David does not excommunicate or castigate his brother, he simply turns away and aside.
  - Listen: if you purpose to live a life of disruptive faith... you will have people in your life that attack, demean, and do not understand.
    - Let no relationships keep you from living a life of Faith.
    - God knows your heart
- Lay aside your hindrances

## Disruptive Faith gives you confidence (1 Sam 17:34-37)

- Look at the confidence in this man of God, this is the power of Faith.
- David had confidence in God’s protection.
  - God’s hand protected David from the hand of the lion and and the hand of the bear.
- David had confidence to trust God for the victory
  - Look what is not mentioned—no weapon? Where is the instrument of judgment and war?

- This is the victory we have in Jesus Christ. God gave David triumph over the wild animals to rescue a lamb. In our lives, Jesus, the spotless Lamb, give us victory over the jaws of death and destruction.
- When God fights for you.. you have strength to go grab a lion by the beard. To grab your fears and sin and Satan by the fur and strike it down (1 Sam 17:34).
- **David's confidence in the Lord gives Saul confidence (17:37)**
  - Do you have faith that instills belief in others?

## **Disruptive Faith gives you victory (1 Sam 17:41-49)**

- **This is what faith in the Victory of Jesus Christ does... it brings fear to our fears**
  - The “champion” this gigantic enemy of God and bully of David now invites the diminutive David to take the first step.
  - Are you waiting for victory in your life? Maybe the Lord waiting for you to take steps of obedience.
    - **Rom 19:10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
    - We do not fall into or default into salvation. We must take steps of faith. We must repent, obey, step up, and lean into His mercy.
- **When you place your trust in Jesus Christ... you will always find victorious salvation and grace in your time of need.**
  - Look at the words of David. The Lord will hand you over, Ill strike you down, give your head (9 foot off of the ground), the world will know, the Lord SAVES, and the battle is the Lord.

## Conclusion

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### **Do you long for a disruptive faith?**

Jesus died to disrupt your world. To make you a new creation, to give you victory in your life, and to help others believe.

Do you have champions, responsibilities, or relationships you need to lay aside?

Do you need confidence?

Believe→ Confess→ Profess→

Do you have a Savior Story?

David, the Good Sheperd wins the victory.

- **You can put your faith in Jesus right were you sit**
- Opportunity to respond publically
  - Come forward
  - Connection card.. we will follow up and encourage you
- "For a small reward, a man will hurry away on a long journey; while for **eternal** life, many will hardly take a single step." (Thomas Kempis)

### Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

## Notes

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**1Sam. 17:1** The Philistines gathered their forces for war at Socoh in Judah and camped between Socoh and Azekah in Ephes-dammim. <sup>2</sup> Saul and the men of Israel gathered and camped in the Valley of Elah; then they lined up in battle formation to face the Philistines.

**1Sam. 17:3** The Philistines were standing on one hill, and the Israelites were standing on another hill with a ravine between them.

- This positioning of the opposing armies on opposite hilltops was a characteristic procedure of warfare in the hilly terrain of central Israel. The perspective of the previous story was implicitly vertical. Here by contrast, is a richly elaborate horizontal deployment of troops and individuals. God is out of the picture, except for the invocation through David's words.
- Separating the Israelites from the Philistines was a dry Wadi (river bed), separating the Israelites psychologically is a great chasm of fear. (NAC)

<sup>4</sup> Then a champion named Goliath, from Gath, came out from the Philistine camp. He was nine feet, nine inches tall <sup>5</sup> and wore a bronze helmet and bronze scale armor that weighed 125 pounds. <sup>6</sup> There was bronze armor on his shins, and a bronze sword was slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup> His spear shaft was like a weaver's beam, and the iron point of his spear weighed 15 pounds. In addition, a shield-bearer was walking in front of him.

- Why is so much attention given to Goliath?
- Goliath means "exile, banished, betray"
- Champion = benayim and
  - Saul was from Benyamim
  - Literally Champion means "the man between—" that is a man who goes out between opposed battle lines to fight a counterpart.
- Height = over 8 feet tall.
- The armor and description of Goliath (Homeric) is quite untypical of the Hebrew Bible. The thematic effect is clear: Goliath is represented as a hulking man of material military strength. The message is clear Goliath is everything David is not.
- Adding to the imposing appearance of Goliath was his combat gear. At a time when most Israelite soldiers wore only basic clothing in battle, Goliath was sheathed in metal. The point of his spear weighed 15.1 lbs. (NAC).
- The shield bearer would have walked with a full body length rectangular shield.
- This passage presents the longest descriptions of military attire in the OT (NAC).

**1Sam. 17:8** He stood and shouted to the Israelite battle formations: “Why do you come out to line up in battle formation?” He asked them, “Am I not a Philistine and are you not servants of Saul? Choose one of your men and have him come down against me. <sup>9</sup> If he wins in a fight against me and kills me, we will be your servants. But if I win against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us.” <sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me a man so we can fight each other!”

- “herpah/heref best translated “I am the one who has insulted the Israelite lines today”
- The fact that Goliath explains the process shows that the Israelites are unfamiliar with this high stakes game. (NAC).

**11** When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

- Saul, the man head and shoulders taller than every other man would be the one qualified to defeat the enemy (Alter).

**1Sam. 17:12** Now David was the son of the Ephrathite from Bethlehem of Judah named Jesse. Jesse had eight sons and during Saul’s reign was already an old man. <sup>13</sup> Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war, and their names were Eliab, the firstborn, Abinadab, the next, and Shammah, the third, <sup>14</sup> and David was the youngest. The three oldest had followed Saul, <sup>15</sup> but David kept going back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s flock in Bethlehem.

- From Saul, has a sense close to “from Saul’s presence” and invites us to suppose that David divided his time between playing the lyre for Saul and tending his father’s flocks.
- Sending the oldest 3 sons... most likely the others including David were under the age of 20, the minimum age for military service in Israel.

**1Sam. 17:16** Every morning and evening for 40 days the Philistine came forward and took his stand. <sup>17</sup> One day Jesse had told his son David: “Take this half-bushel of roasted grain along with these 10 loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. <sup>18</sup> Also take these 10 portions of cheese to the field commander. Check on the welfare of your brothers and bring a confirmation from them. <sup>19</sup> They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines.”

**1Sam. 17:20** So David got up early in the morning, left the flock with someone to keep it, loaded up, and set out as Jesse had instructed him.

He arrived at the perimeter of the camp as the army was marching out to its battle formation shouting their battle cry. <sup>21</sup> Israel and the Philistines lined up in battle formation facing each other. <sup>22</sup> David left his supplies in the care of the quartermaster and ran to the battle line. When he arrived, he asked his brothers how they were.

- The phrase used precisely echoes his leaving the flock with a keeper. The narrative invokes a series

of divestments by David of impediments for which he has been made responsible—flock, provisions, and then Saul’s armor (Alter).

**23** While he was speaking with them, suddenly the champion named Goliath, the Philistine from Gath, came forward from the Philistine battle line and shouted his usual words, which David heard. **24** When all the Israelite men saw Goliath, they retreated from him terrified.

**1Sam. 17:25** Previously, an Israelite man had declared: “Do you see this man who keeps coming out? He comes to defy Israel. The king will make the man who kills him very rich and will give him his daughter. The king will also make the household of that man’s father exempt from paying taxes in Israel.”

**1Sam. 17:26** David spoke to the men who were standing with him: “What will be done for the man who kills that Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

- These are David’s first words in the narrative.
- Perhaps, for the first time in his life, David he heard the Lord being ridiculed. David also saw his fellow Israelites reactions to this desecration (NAC).

**1Sam. 17:27** The people told him about the offer, concluding, “That is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

**1Sam. 17:28** David’s oldest brother Eliab listened as he spoke to the men, and became angry with him. “Why did you come down here?” he asked. “Who did you leave those few sheep with in the wilderness? I know your arrogance and your evil heart—you came down to see the battle!”

- Bit/few → the word expresses the contempt of Eliab towards David.
- The emphatic structure of Eliab’s speech “I, I know” echoes the same structure occurring in Goliath’s boasting speech in v. 10 (Alter).
- Evil heart = the wickedness of your heart.
  - **13:14** But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

**1Sam. 17:29** “What have I done now?” protested David. “It was just a question.” **30** Then he turned from those beside him to others in front of him and asked about the offer. The people gave him the same answer as before.

- Then he turned, ignoring his brothers rebuke, David wants to hear the details of the reward a third time (Alter).

**1Sam. 17:31** What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, so he had David brought to him. **32** David said to Saul, “Don’t let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!”

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**1Sam. 17:33** But Saul replied, “You can’t go fight this Philistine. You’re just a youth, and he’s been a warrior since he was young.”

**1Sam. 17:34** David answered Saul: “Your servant has been tending his father’s sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” <sup>37</sup> Then David said, “The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.”

- Here is the power of Faith
  - It gives David confidence
  - It persuades Saul to believe
- Notice what is not mentioned... no weapon only the Lord
- We need strength not to throw stones at the lion but to grab our fears, enemies, hindrances by the beard and strike them down. David did this to rescue a lamb. We can do this because of the Lamb.
- For David, Goliath was just another wild beast (NAC).

**1Sam. 17:38** Then Saul had his own military clothes put on David. He put a bronze helmet on David’s head and had him put on armor. <sup>39</sup> David strapped his sword on over the military clothes and tried to walk, but he was not used to them. “I can’t walk in these,” David said to Saul, “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off. <sup>40</sup> Instead, he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pouch, in his shepherd’s bag. Then, with his sling in his hand, he approached the Philistine.

- David willingly took off the one thing that gave him protection
- David goes to fight without clothes to protect, an army to back him up, or the right weapons to go into battle.
  - How much more do we need to see. Our weapons will never be enough. Believe in the One True God is one and only tool we have for victory in our lives.
- Hand of the lion—hand of the bear—hand of the Philistine. The hand of the Lord delivers.
  - ISA 41:13 <sup>13</sup> For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand,
  - Saying to you, “Fear not, I will help you.”

**1Sam. 17:41** The Philistine came closer and closer to David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. <sup>42</sup> When the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him because he was just a youth, healthy and

handsome. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, “Am I a dog that you come against me with sticks?” Then he cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> “Come here,” the Philistine called to David, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts!”

- This “champion” invites David to take the final steps.
- Instead of traversing this final interval of space, David will surprise his adversary by taking him down with a slung stone. (Alter).

**1Sam. 17:45** David said to the Philistine: “You come against me with a dagger, spear, and sword, but I come against you in the name of Yahweh of Hosts, the God of Israel’s armies—you have defied Him. <sup>46</sup> Today, the LORD will hand you over to me. Today, I’ll strike you down, cut your head off, and give the corpses of the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, <sup>47</sup> and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the LORD saves, for the battle is the LORD’s. He will hand you over to us.”

- David speaks almost as though he expects to prevail through a miracle of divine intervention (Alter).

**1Sam. 17:48** When the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet the Philistine.

- This last gesture would encourage the Philistine to think David was rushing up for the awaited hand –to –hand combat.

<sup>49</sup> David put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

<sup>50</sup> David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone. Even though David had no sword, he struck down the Philistine and killed him. <sup>51</sup> David ran and stood over him. He grabbed the Philistine’s sword, pulled it from its sheath, and used it to kill him. Then he cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they ran. <sup>52</sup> The men of Israel and Judah rallied, shouting their battle cry, and chased the Philistines to the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. Philistine bodies were strewn all along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

**1Sam. 17:53** When the Israelites returned from the pursuit of the Philistines, they plundered their camps. <sup>54</sup> David took Goliath’s head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put Goliath’s weapons in his own tent.

**1Sam. 17:55** When Saul had seen David going out to confront the Philistine, he asked Abner the commander of the army, “Whose son is this youth, Abner?”

“My king, as surely as you live, I don’t know,” Abner replied.

**1Sam. 17:56** The king said, “Find out whose son this young man is!”

**1Sam. 17:57** When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine’s head still in his hand. **58** Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?”

“The son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem,” David answered.

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## Illustrations

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## Application

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- Work has dignity because it is something that God does and because we do it in God’s place, as his
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