

1) INTRO

- As a teenager, one of the movies we grew up watching, as a family, was “Tall Tale”
 - It’s a western film that follows the fictional characters of Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan, and John Henry as they team up to help a boy and his family save their land from being taken away by a greedy businessman
 - At one point in the film, they’re in a saloon, and Pecos Bill raises his glass to toast the great state of TX
 - Only to have a nearby troublemaker laugh in his face & mock the state of TX and the fact that he thought he smelled something funny
 - Pecos turns away from the man and crushes a handful of peanuts in his hands to try and control the rage he’s feeling
 - Only to have this guy laugh all the more and insult TX even more
 - Until Pecos Bill stands tall and says, “Mr, you can insult me & you can insult my friends. In fact, you can even insult my mother & my horse. But, Mr, don’t you ever insult the great state of TX”
 - Of course, this clown continue to laugh and mock until Pecos, naturally, has to kick the tar out of him to defend the great state of TX
 - Pecos Bill cared about the reputation of the great state of TX
- And, this is what’s going on in our passage today
 - We’re in this familiar passage of David & Goliath
 - Most people – Christians and non-Christians – know this story
 - And, **what we see going on’s that David cared about God’s reputation**
 - And, he’s not gonna tolerate anyone mocking God...even a giant warrior
- As we dig into our text today, we come remembering that Saul was anointed king of Israel in ch 10
 - Then, the Lord rejected Saul as king and so he commanded Samuel to anoint David as king (after passing through his 7 older bros)
 - b/c God looks at the heart
- And, David shows his heart to do God’s will in our passage today
- God directed Samuel to anoint David – and in this story – we see what was so attractive about David...his heart
 - In his heart, David cared about God’s reputation
 - As we grapple w/ the text today, this is what we’re gonna wrestle with – **who’s reputation do we care about? Ours? Or God’s?**
 - **In other words, do we care more about what people think about us? Or about God?**

2) 17:1-10

- Goliath was over 9 ft tall (most sources say this)
 - His chain mail was over 125 lbs
 - The head of his spear was 15 lbs
 - The point: he was big and strong
 - He was invincible
- By all appearances, there’s no way anyone could beat him
 - But, we talked about appearances last week didn’t we?

- Goliath challenged any man to fight
 - And, this man would come out and fight as a representative for all of Israel
 - This man would represent Israel before this evil warrior
 - This man would stand in the place of the whole group
 - If he lost, Israel would lose
 - If he'd win, Israel would win
 - So, this is the challenge that God's bringing to Israel here
- And, he's bringing this challenge to help them learn to trust him
 - And, he does this w/ us every day, doesn't he?
 - God's brings challenges into our lives so that we'll trust him
 - Work – dealing w/ a false accusation, a domineering boss, selfish attitudes...these are all challenges put before us so that we'll trust in our sovereign God/look to him/rely on him/depend on him
 - We need God's help all throughout the day in the workplace so that our hearts are right as we deal w/ challenges
 - School – dealing w/ pressure from friends and classmates to give in to temptations of drinking or smoking or sex
 - We need God's help to keep our hearts focused on him
 - Husbands & wives – we need God's help to keep ourselves from pushing our demands and desires onto our spouse
 - We need God's help to love our spouse and serve our spouse b/c, in our selfishness, we're not quick to do that
 - Fathers & mothers – it's a challenge to faithfully every day evangelize and disciple our children...it takes time and effort and energy
 - We need God's help to be consistent and loving in our parenting
 - It's a challenge not to worry about our children's salvation – whether our children are 2 yrs old or 52 yrs old
 - We need God's help to trust that he'll save them if that's his plan
 - Children – we need God's help to honor and obey our parents...we can't do that on our own
 - That's a challenge before our every day
 - Retirees – it's a challenge to either not grow lazy or complacent AND to not become too busy now too
 - We need God's help to be disciplined and fill our time with what pleases God and promotes the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Every day our lives are filled with challenges that're opportunities for us to trust in God and lean on God and press into God
 - They're opportunities for us to look to our sovereign God
 - And, Israel's faced with a particular challenge here in our passage today
 - Goliath came challenging Israel that they put forward a man to fight him
- And, so Goliath comes and openly defies the army of Israel
 - And, as Goliath defies the armies of Israel, he's also defying God
 - To defy the armies of Israel's also to defy God/YHWH himself

3) 17:11-27

- Where's Saul?

- As king/as the leader, he's supposed to be this champion to fight Goliath
- Remember that Israel wanted a king to fight for them...to battle for them...surely Saul was their guy
 - He was handsome and tall and strong...and he did defeat some of their enemies
- But, here, when the secret weapon Goliath comes forward, Saul's hiding in the corner like everyone else
 - He's just as afraid as the rest of the men
 - He's helpless...back at camp and paralyzed by fear
 - Saul cares more about preserving himself
- Saul was chosen as king for his warrior potential
 - But, here he's looking for volunteers to come forward and fight Goliath
 - And, he's willing to reward this representative generously – to give him riches and his daughter in marriage
- Saul and the Israelite army are gripped by fear
 - This is what Satan wants to do to us
 - He wants to cripple us w/ fear...to paralyze us in fear
 - He wants us to feel weak and powerless and hopeless and defeated
 - And, you know what?
 - We are
 - We are when we try to do things on our own...when we try to walk through challenges on our own...when we're trying to battle in our own strength
 - But, when we rest in God and call out God and trust in God to work in us and through us and in spite of us, he'll work in great ways to exalt himself in the challenges we walk through
- But, Saul and the Israelite army aren't living this way in our text...they're not trusting in God
 - Instead they're overcome w/ fear
- But, one person's not overcome w/ fear here
 - David's not
 - He's a young man here...probably less than 20 yrs old at this point
 - David's not fearful; he can't stand it that God's being mocked
 - David notices the fact that Goliath's defying the living God (v26)
 - David comments to the men nearby that this uncircumcised Philistine's defying the armies of God himself
 - This pagan Philistine's openly mocking God
 - And nobody's doing anything about it!
 - David doesn't run and hide in fear like everyone else – including Saul
 - Instead, David speaks up for God and against Goliath

4) 17:28-37

- Eliab – David oldest brother – is critical here
 - He rebukes David
 - And, literally, everything he says is a lie
 - Remember David was just anointed king in the last chapter
 - And, you know this has gotta be ringing loudly in Eliab's ears
 - The eldest brother's jealous, so he's critical
- But, it doesn't change David's trust in God

- It doesn't change David's annoyance at Goliath's mockery of God
- David even asks Saul to go and fight this pagan Philistine
- He makes his case that he's been able to protect the sheep that've been in his care
 - He's killed lions & bears in his protection of his flock
 - And, this pagan Philistine – who'd defying the armies of the living God – will be just like them
- And, David's trust in God is clear b/c he gives all the credit to God
 - He clearly acknowledges that God was the one who worked through him as a shepherd to strike down lions and bears
 - And, he knows that God will do the same to this secret weapon, Goliath

5) 17:38-58

- So, Saul tries to give David his armor for the battle
 - But, David wasn't used to wearing that
 - So, he chooses to use his slingshot and five smooth stones instead
- When Goliath sees young David walk out without any armor on, he begins trash-talking
 - He ridicules his unlikely opponent and says that he'll feed him to the animals when he's done with him
 - In spite of his trash-talking, Goliath would've known that slingshots were dangerous weapons
 - They were commonly used in the ancient world and stones could be slung as fast as 125 mph and thrown accurately for 100 yards
 - So, it wasn't David's choice of weapon that made Goliath bad-mouth David
 - Goliath made the same mistake that Samuel made when he saw David, didn't he?
 - He looked at the outward appearance
 - But, what Goliath didn't know was that David had a heart for God's glory/a heart that wanted to God's reputation to be exalted
 - He had a heart that cared about what people thought about God
 - And, Goliath didn't know that David trusted in the all-powerful God of the universe – the Lord of hosts
 - God – who reigns and rules over all earthly and heavenly powers
 - Goliath didn't know this about David until David declares that he trusts in God who's sovereign over all things and more powerful than any weapon make can make
 - Psalm 20:7 – Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.
 - And, as David declares the absolute power and might of God, David makes it clear that he'll defeat Goliath so that all the earth will know that God is a victorious God
- So, David slung the stone and it killed Goliath and he went and cut off Goliath's head just as he said it would
 - And, David shows God to be the hero
 - David came to show that this is God's battle
 - David shows that God's the victorious one
 - God's the ultimate warrior
 - B/c David was trusting in God to defeat the enemy Goliath
 - This is all about God

- And, this story shows us that God's trustworthy
 - He can be trusted
 - So, we don't have to fear
- The reality's that we're more like the men of Israel than we realize...more than we'd like to recognize
 - We all have a giant in our lives – sin
 - We can't conquer sin by ourselves...b/c our sin condemns us to death...we're dead in our sin
 - Like Israel, we need a Savior – a representative – who'll fight and defeat our giant/sin for us
 - David was the man God sent to save Israel from their enemy
 - And, JC is the one God send to save us from our enemy, sin
 - Romans 5 shows us that sin and death came to each and every person through Adam and his sin in the Garden of Eden
 - And, Romans 5 also shows us that life and salvation came through JC
 - Who came down to earth as our representative to fight sin and defeat the enemy and death for us
 - And, he did that on the cross
 - He went to the cross to take the punishment for all our sin – past, present, and future – so that we wouldn't have to be punished when we trust in this work of Jesus
 - He took all of our sin to the cross and paid the debt we should've paid
 - He died in our place
 - Colossians 2:13-15 – And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
 - Amen!
 - Jesus was our representative to defeat and conquer our
 - He took our sin and hammered it to the cross by dying in our place
 - But, he didn't stay dead
 - As God, he defeated death by rising victoriously
 - We have victory over sin and death in Jesus
 - He's victorious!
 - He's the hero!
 - And, when we trust in our victorious hero, Jesus, and in this work he accomplished our behalf, we'll be forgiven of our sins and we'll be given eternal life
 - Jesus conquered sin and defeated death for us/in our place/as our representative
 - When we trust in Jesus, we share in his victory over sin
- This good news is so reassuring for us as we walk through each and every day
 - All those challenges we talked about earlier as employers/employees, as students, as husbands & wives, as parents, as children, as retirees, and more
 - We're only able to properly deal w/ these challenges when we know Jesus as Savior
 - We're only able to rest in God and trust in him when Jesus is our Lord who's guiding our every step
 - And, when we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior – that he saves us of our sin and that he's our King – we're people walking by the power of the HS

- And we need him every day – the HS
- If we try to live in our power, we're gonna sin badly in every challenge that comes our way
 - We're gonna live out our fleshly reactions rather than asking the HS to help us to live for him and obey him in everything
- And, in those moments when we don't perfectly live for God and obey him, there's forgiveness in Jesus
- God's trustworthy and David's role as the victorious representative shows us this
 - And, this is great news
- But, God's victory through David isn't good news to Saul

6) 18:6-16, 30

- We see Saul's anger and jealousy and fear grow in these verses
- People aren't singing his praises
 - And, so he fears for his place on the throne
- We saw last week that God's Spirit left Saul
 - And, we saw God's Spirit come upon David
 - And, David's having great success in defeating the Philistines and he grew to be very famous
- So, this sets the stage for next week as our pastor walks us through 6 chapters of Saul's attempts to kill David
- And, one thing we'll continue to see's that David trusts in God
 - While imperfect and sinful – just as we all are – David rested in our trustworthy God

6) CONCLUSION

- So, what's the takeaway today?
- It's that we have a trustworthy God
 - We have a trustworthy God who saves us even though we're weak and sinful
 - He's victorious over sin
 - He's the one who died in our place
 - He's our representative

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