

A Reason for Living

Introduction:

1000 BC – two Middle Eastern armies gather for war. On one side of the valley: Israel. On the other: Philistines. They proposed to send out best warrior to fight for the entire army. The army of dead loser would become the subjects of the victor and serve them. The story unfolds in 1 Samuel 17. In life, there will be Goliath sized challenges that confront us. We all have our own personal “Valley of Elah” today. There, the enemy stalks, shouting at us to come fight. So how do we get through? How do we go from a life of just “existing” to a life filled with purpose, hope, and optimism? Even while the Goliath is standing in our personal valley?

I. Enter David.

- A. 1 Samuel 17:17-20 – David runs an errand for his dad. Too young to fight in army.
 - 1. Important: not going there to fight.
- B. 17:24 – all of Israel greatly afraid. Not David. 17:26 – Who is this Philistine?
- C. 17:25a – “coming up.”
 - 1. 17:8 – Goliath had said, “choose a man; let him come down to me.”
 - 2. Lesson: Can’t tolerate or ignore the giants in our lives.
 - 3. Can’t tolerate our giants – we must kill them.
- D. 17:34-37 – David’s statement of faith after he resolves to kill Goliath.
 - 1. 17:40 goes out to do battle. Intimidated? Hardly. 17:47 – the battle is the Lord’s!
17:48-51 – God gave David success!

II. This week is the first week of 2010.

- A. Many are glad to turn the page on 2009.
- B. What are some of your goals for the upcoming year? The rest of your life?
 - 1. If we are going to get where we want to – must have focused vision of how to get there.
 - 2. *Bigger the vision – the more you will accomplish in life.*
- C. Why so important?
 - 1. Goals & vision give you a reason to live each day.
 - 2. Wayne Grovenberg (Charging the Battleline) suggests: *a good way to evaluate how you are spending your life is to start with a view from the end.*
- D. Time Machine Game:
 - 1. Envision a time machine that carries you forward to the last day of your life.
 - 2. What are the three most important things to you at that moment?
 - 3. What is really important to you on the last day of your life?
 - 4. Now...get back in your time machine & return to the present time.
 - a. Take a look at your lists. Compare them.
 - b. Are your life goals consistent with what you have written down as to what will be important to you on your last day?

III. Goal setting and vision is very important as we go into battle.

- A. 1 Samuel 17 – the army of Israel had not produced a champion to fight Goliath.
 - 1. David had a very specific vision of the end result - 17:45-47
- B. What are you striving for as a Christian?
 - 1. Do you know where you are going?
 - 2. Paul knew where he was going. Philippians 3:13-14

Conclusion:

- A. Where are you headed? Do you feel you have a reason for living?
- B. Are there Goliaths knocking on the door of your life?
- C. Without God, you won’t have success. Let Him come into the door of your life.