

# ***Mission: Possible***

David & Goliath

1 Samuel 17

## **Message**

We are beginning a new series today and over the coming months that I will meet with you we will be looking at the idea of “what Happens we ask God to do the impossible!?”

Pastor Steven Furtick writes in his book, “The Sun Stands Still”, “You will never know what it is like to experience God’s power.....until you have the audacity to *believe* and *pray* and *act* in confidence that our God is a God of the impossible” (Page 77).

The Bible tells us in a number of places that “Nothing Is Impossible with God!” Show slide – repeat as a congregation! Turn to your neighbor and tell them, “Nothing is impossible with God!” (say it with some conviction! )

***Turn with me if you would to 1 Samuel 17. If you don’t have a bible with you today, please use the one that is found in your row to follow along.***

***We’re going to look at 2 ideas today.***

- 1. The Impossible situation that David Faced***
- 2. How God turned the impossible situation into something possible.***

***David faced an impossible situation:***

**The first challenge that he had was that he had to deal with some:**

**1. Difficult terrain** ~ Read vs. 1-3 - “Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. <sup>2</sup> Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. <sup>3</sup> The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

**III. Explain the difficult Terrain** – What made this difficult terrain was that the valley had steep walls on either side and whoever did battle here would have to not only run down their steep incline, but then they would have to climb up the steep cliffs on the other side and neither army really wanted to be first because as soon as they started up the steep cliffs of their opponent, they were at a disadvantage!!

And you know, sometimes when we are faced with an impossible situation, we too have some difficult terrain that we have to deal with. Some of the paths in our lives that we have been on, are presently traveling on, or will encounter somewhere down the road are difficult paths to be on. There are some valleys, there are some bumps, there are some jagged edges, there are some steep inclines and cliffs that we have to climb, and it’s just simply not always an easy path that we travel on!

## The second challenge David had to deal with was that

**2. He was facing a GIANT** ~ Read vs. 4-16 - <sup>4</sup> A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup> He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels <sup>[b]</sup>; <sup>6</sup> on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. <sup>7</sup> His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. <sup>[c]</sup> His shield bearer went ahead of him.

<sup>8</sup> Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." <sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." <sup>11</sup> On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

<sup>12</sup> Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. <sup>13</sup> Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. <sup>14</sup> David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, <sup>15</sup> but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

<sup>16</sup> For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

***Now, here are some details about what David was actually facing here....***

***III. Explain Goliath's size and weaponry*** – Goliath was 9'9" tall, his armor weighed 125 pounds and the tip of his spear weighed 15 lbs. He was an experienced warrior – fighting since he was a youth and he was also a champion warrior among his people and in the region around them! And if we read carefully, we see that going into battle, Goliath also made sure that his shield bearer was in front of him which added to the challenge for David to face this giant.

***III. Explain David's size and weaponry*** - And then when we take a look at David, we see someone who is polar opposite of Goliath! He was young, inexperienced, had never fought in a battle before, he was small, - the average height of an Israelite man was only 5' tall at that time, and he didn't carry any weaponry, other than a sling shot and a few rocks that he picked up as he went into battle.

And not only was David facing this giant one on one as an underdog, but we have to also consider what was taking place around him!

***III. Explain size of armies*** - 1 Sam 13 tells us that the Philistine Army was "as numerous as the sand on the seashore" - they were a HUGE and powerful military army!!!! And in the history of these 2 groups, this was the 6<sup>th</sup> battle between the Israelites and the Philistines - and there would be 7 more battles between these 2 that would come after this battle. Both armies had already lost thousands of men. And neither wanted to lose any more!!!

***Now, here are some thoughts for our lives at this point....***

- The giants in our lives will continue to come at us!! – we will always be faced with challenges in our lives and we have to face them head on if we are going to make it successfully through what seems to be impossible situations! Don't give up or give in when difficult times come!!!!
- The "Giants" in our lives are often tools that God uses to prepare us for bigger things! (and if we took a look at the coming days and years ahead in David's life, we would find that facing Goliath was only the

beginning of what he would face down the road, and not anywhere near being his toughest opponent!!!

- When we face giants, we need a different perspective!! It's interesting to see in this story that when the Army saw Goliath, David saw God. And when the Army saw the problem, David saw the possibility. There are times in our journey in life when an adjustment in our perspective can give us a clearer vision for what needs to happen and what will happen!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Challenge David faced was that he had to deal with

**3. Doubtful & Jealous onlookers** ~ Read vs. 28-33 - <sup>28</sup> When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle." <sup>29</sup> "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" <sup>30</sup> He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. <sup>31</sup> What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. <sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." <sup>33</sup> Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

**III. Doubtful & Jealous & Angry Brother** – 1 Sam. 16 tells us that Eliab, the older brother had been overlooked as a possibility of being the next King.....now we don't know if he knew all of what was going on in that moment, but he must have known that something was taking place and that there was a reason he was being overlooked!

**III. David also had to deal with a Jealous Leader** - In 1 Sam. 13 it tells us that God rejected Saul as the leader because he had disobeyed God and Samuel told him that there would be a new leader coming up through that God would anoint and appoint! And I wonder if Saul sensed in this moment when David is coming forward, if he would be the next King? Now hold onto this thought because in just a moment I'll share why this is likely.

**III. And let me throw one more group of people in the mix here that we will have to deal with when we're facing giants. We will have people who Mock us and make fun of us!** We can see further on in this story that Goliath himself mocks David and really makes fun of him for even thinking that this was a good idea to go into battle!

It's important for us to understand that when we're getting ready to face some giants head on, or when we are in a seemingly impossible situation, there will be people who are doubtful, critical, angry, jealous, vengeful, and those who will even mock us! But we can't let that stop us from moving forward!! I'm afraid that often times in our lives, the doubters, the critics, and the mockers....and all the others I've just mentioned, often get in the way of us accomplishing the things that God wants for us!! Don't let them do that to you!!!

Alright, the 4<sup>th</sup> challenge David had to deal with was that

**4. He was given the wrong clothes** ~ Read vs. 38-39 - <sup>38</sup> Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. <sup>39</sup> David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

Now, before we pass over it, we need to know that there was a whole lot more going on here than just David not being able to wear Saul's clothes. Positions of authority in the ancient world were marked by formal insignia, or by special clothing. Even more important, the ruler's weapon, usually a sword, was seen as a gift of the deities and a mark of their favor toward the bearer as the legitimate ruler. So when Saul offered David

his armor, he would have been understood by Israelite culture as offering David his own position as King of Israel. The transfer of clothing signified a transfer of status. And, Saul's sword was the mark of his position as defender of Israel; when the sword was given to David, Saul's kingship went with it (now can you see why Saul might have been jealous?). But David could not wear the armor or sword; not only because it didn't really fit, but because he wasn't ready to be the King, even though he already knew he had God's favor and anointing to one day be the king. By returning the military gear, David showed that he did not intend to replace Saul as king until the time was right.

Now, here are some thoughts for us on this point....

- Don't let others try to get you to be someone who you are not!
- Don't let others try to mold you and shape you into their image they have for you!!
- Don't let someone else's expectations limit you in what God has in store for you!! I wonder many times if the expectations that we place on one another in the community of faith are actually more damaging than they are helpful?
- And Don't let someone else try to push you into a role before it's your time!
- God only expects us to use what **He gave to us** when we are faced with giants and seemingly impossible situations.

**Now, let's take a look at how God turned this impossibility into a possibility!!**

1. **He used someone who had a heart after God** ~ Read 1 Sam. 13:13-14, 16:7, & 16:12b – (Samuel confronting Saul) <sup>13</sup>“You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. <sup>14</sup>But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.” But the LORD said to Samuel, **“Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”**

Here are some thoughts for us:

- In order to face the battles in our lives, we have to prepare ourselves for those times of battle. And it starts in our heart!! Our heart is what should characterize all who wear the name of Christ
  - Only Giant people can take on Giants in their lives!! If you have never faced the small difficulties or if you always run away or avoid confrontations, or challenges in life, then you will never be able or ready to face the real giants and the big issues that will come into your life. God wants us to be prepared for these battles!!
  - Ephesians 6 tells us that we are to put on the full armor of God so that WHEN the day of EVIL COMES, we will be able to fight!!!!
  - Don't neglect the preparation time!!!
2. **God used someone who was willing to step into areas of life that others were unwilling to step into** ~ vs.11, 20-27 - <sup>11</sup>On hearing the Philistine's words, **Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.** - <sup>20</sup>Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. David reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. <sup>21</sup>Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. <sup>22</sup>**David**

**left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines** and asked his brothers how they were. <sup>23</sup> As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. <sup>24</sup> **Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.** <sup>25</sup> Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.” <sup>26</sup> David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” <sup>27</sup> They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

- What are we willing to do differently from those around us in order to face the giants and experience victory!!!??
- The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results....
- David was willing to go into territory and do that thing that no one else was willing to do! Everybody else ran away!!
- We have to get out of our comfort zones in life if we’re ever going to experience all that God has for us!!!
- The Bible is filled with people who were willing to get out of their comfort zones and do something extra-ordinary!!! Hebrews 11 is a great place to start for a summary of some of those people!

3. **God used someone who never doubted that God would deliver him.** ~ vs. 36-37, 41-47 - <sup>36</sup>Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup>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 the LORD be with you.” <sup>41</sup>Meanwhile, the Philistine, **with his shield bearer in front of him**, kept coming closer to David. <sup>42</sup>He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup>He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup>“Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”<sup>45</sup> **David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup>This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup>All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”**

- Here we find that David had courage and boldness because he knew God had promised deliverance and would fight for them!!! He had NO DOUBT about God’s faithfulness!!!
- If we look to scripture, we find that the word “deliver” or “deliverance” is used 252 times and friends, that means that it’s important for us to pay attention to and to understand, and to accept as a part of God’s plan for us!!!
- And we don’t have to doubt that God will deliver us!!! In fact, I believe that when we doubt, it is probably the very thing that gets in the way of God delivering us from those things that bind us!!
- We’re instructed to have FAITH in God and when we do, God will turn the impossible, into the possible!!

Alright, #4 and then we'll close today....

4. ***God used someone who understood that "little is much when God is in it!"*** ~ Read vs. 48-52 - <sup>48</sup>As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup>Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. <sup>50</sup>So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. <sup>51</sup>David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. <sup>52</sup>Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath<sup>[f]</sup> and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron."
- When we are facing giants, it is never about how much we have!! It's always about using what we have.....from man's perspective, David was under-resourced, and outmatched in this story. And really, there is no way that he should have won this battle. But, he did. Why? Because throughout his brief journey in life, he had been faithful with the small things and God blessed him in this situation. (lion and bear as well)
  - Luke 16:10 tells us that when we are faithful with the little things, God blesses us with bigger things.

And friends, I don't know what impossibility you are facing today, but I do know this.....God wants to take your impossible situation and make it into a possibility!!

You might be dealing with a marriage that is quickly nearing divorce and you don't know if it can be saved!  
You might be dealing with some unexpected health issues that has turned your life upside down!  
You might be dealing with a bank account that is getting closer to zero every month!!

And you might be saying to yourself, "God, how is this going to turn around!!?"

And my words of encourage to you today are the words that we began our time with just a while ago, and we need to remember that "Nothing is impossible with God!"

**Pray**