



# **RISE UP**

Challenging men to live up to God's calling!

**Rise up and fight!**

**1 Samuel 17:1-51**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on July 15, 2023**



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# Rise up and fight!

## 1 Samuel 17:1-51

### Opening Comments

- Today we continue our Men's Ministry series: **RISE UP: Challenging men to live up to God's calling!**
- Let's begin with a word of prayer.
- Turn in your Bibles to **1 Samuel 17**
- This is a very familiar text – the account of David and Goliath.
- As men, we love this account.
- One young man by faith goes toe to toe with a literal giant and takes him out with a sling and a stone.
- Let's read the account and then talk about it.
- **1 Samuel 17:1-3**
- Saul is king of Israel.
- He marshals the army of Israel to stand against the Philistines.
- The Philistines were what was left of the original Canaanites.
- When God led Israel into the Promised Land, He instructed Joshua to drive all the previous inhabitants of Canaan out of the land.
- If they didn't leave voluntarily, they were to utterly destroy them.
- God made promises to the people of Israel regarding their enemies.

### **Deuteronomy 28:1-2; 7**

Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God...<sup>7</sup>The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

- If they obeyed God, kept His commandments, and placed their trust in Him, no enemy could stand against them.
- A little further in that chapter, God described what would happen if they didn't obey. **Deuteronomy 28:15; 25-26**

<sup>15</sup> But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you... <sup>25</sup> The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way

against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth. <sup>26</sup> Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten *them* away.

- Even a casual study of the time between Joshua leading the people into the Promised land and King Saul leading the army of Israel into this battle shows they walked in disobedience much more than in obedience.
- Saul has already been told by God through Samuel that the kingdom was going to be taken away from him because of his disobedience.
- As the people of God, King Saul should have stood against the Philistines with the confidence of his faith in God's promises.
- The fact that there are Philistines in the land is a rebuke to the king of Israel.
- **1 Samuel 17:4-10**
- Goliath was a behemoth – nine feet nine inches tall.
- If you were Goliath, this is a logical offer.
- Chances are, no one was going to beat this giant in hand-to-hand combat.
- Unless, of course, God has own champion in the wings.
- **1 Samuel 17:12-15**
- David was probably in his late teens.
- He was not the obvious pick to fight a giant.
- Even his own father overlooked him when Samuel came looking for God's pick to be the next king of Israel.
- **1 Samuel 17:16-19**
- From the account we have, there does not seem to be a lot of fighting going on.
- **1 Samuel 17:20-23**
- David gets there just in time to see and hear the Goliath taunting the army of Israel and blaspheming God.
- **1 Samuel 17:25-26**
- Hearing this uncircumcised Philistine blaspheme God gets David's blood boiling.
- **1 Samuel 17:31-37**

- David had a real and living relationship with the One True God.
- David trusted in God and God had proved His faithfulness to David.
- He believed that if God could deliver him from the lion and the bear, this Philistine would be no problem.
- **1 Samuel 17:40-44**
- It is interesting that Goliath threatens David with the very thing God warned the Israelites would happen if they were disobedient.
- **1 Samuel 17:45-51a**
- God did something radical through a young man of faith.
- This account is an awesome display of God's faithfulness to those who are faithful to Him.
- This is a fascinating account of God winning a victory – using something as humble as a shepherd boy to destroy Philistine giant.
- As amazing as this account is, it leaves me asking a question, why did God need a David to win this victory?
- Saul has an army – why did it take a shepherd boy to win this battle?
- Well, you might think it was because the Philistine army was stronger than the army of Israel. Not likely!
- **1 Samuel 17:51b-53**
- Without Goliath, the Philistine army fled like a bunch of scared girls squealing all the way back to their cities.
- So, why did it take the faith of a shepherd boy to win this battle?
- **1 Samuel 17:12**
- Why were they afraid? Why was Saul afraid and dismayed?
- Because Saul was not engaged through faith and obedience with God, he could not engage in the battle.
- Deuteronomy 28 promised God would defend them from all their enemies.
- All they had to do was believe and trust in God and obey Him.
- Is there any enemy too strong for God to defeat? **Romans 8:31**
- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**
- Is there any enemy God can't defeat through any of His people, whether they are great or small?
- King Saul's son Jonathan didn't think so.

- A few chapters earlier, the Philistines were in the land and Jonathan decided to go check them out. **1 Samuel 14:6**

Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.”

- Jonathan and his armorbearer, before his father Saul even knows what is going on, have killed twenty Philistines – in their own camp.
- The army of Saul won a great victory over the Philistines that day.
- But that was before – this is now.

- **1 Samuel 17:24**

- They were afraid of an enemy God intended to defeat.
- For forty days they fled in fear from Goliath and the Philistines.
- All they needed was one man who had the courage to trust God and believe in God’s promises.
- The Philistines were the enemies of God’s people.
- Goliath represented their might and fierceness.
- David faced Goliath in faith – God won the victory – David took the prize.

- **1 Samuel 17:54**

- I wonder – how did David carry Goliath’s head – by the hair – like a football tucked under his arm – or with his fingers in his nostrils like a bowling ball?

- Guys, we have an enemy. **1 Peter 5:8**

**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

- For most men, our enemy doesn’t show up as an armor-clad warrior-giant screaming in our face and challenging us to a fight.
- For most men, the battle is not out there – it is inside us.
- Our battle is with apathy, indifference, lack of concern, hopelessness.
- Our problem is not that we are afraid of our enemy – we are quite comfortable with his presence around our life.
- Like the army of Israel, men are sitting on the sidelines and waiting for a David to show up.
- David, the giant-killer would end being the next king of Israel.
- And then the men who followed him became giant killers.

- Saul had an army of men who said they were ready to fight for the king and for God.
- But in the forty days of Goliath's taunting, not one of them stepped forward to fight.
- They gave the appearance of being ready to fight, but when the time to fight came, they stayed on the sidelines.
- Guys, where are you? Are you in the fight?
- And before you answer yes, most men in Saul's army had another life.
- They had families, homes, and jobs.
- As men, we have a responsibility to those things, and while there may be battles to won there, that is not where the army of God musters.
- The army of God gathers in meetings like this one.
- It is in places like this where God's army is trained up for the real battles ahead.
- When Jesus created the church, He gave it a mission. **Matthew 28:18-20**

**And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**

- That is the mission of the universal church.
- Every church, like ours, is called to fulfill that mission to the community around us.
- So, let me ask you, what is this church doing to fulfill our mission?
- If you don't know, shouldn't you know?
- And what is your part in the mission of the church?
- And what are you doing to prepare for your part of the mission of the church?
- Guys, your marriage, family, home, and job are important.
- God didn't save you just so that you can be a better, husband, father, grandfather, or employee.
- He also saved you to get into the fight for the souls of the lost humanity around us.
- To do that we gather as men of God, and we go out together and fulfill the mission of the church together.

- But first, we need a plan, and we need men to fulfill the plan.
- Over the last few years there has been a steady decline in the engagement of men in the church, not just ours, but in churches in general.
- Giants are out there and too many of God's men are sitting on the sidelines.
- These are men God could use to deal with those giants.
- This is not a rebuke, but it is a challenge – rise up and fight for God!
- So, what can you do?
- First, examine your priorities.
- Is being a part of God's plan to reach the world around us through this church a priority? If not, what can you adjust to make it one.
- Second, adjust your life so that you can be a part of the Men's Ministry. The Men's Ministry exists to equip men for God's mission. You need to show up, suit up and not give up.
- Third, find a place for you and your family to serve within the church. The church is the vehicle God chose to communicate His message into the world. If you need help with that, ask.
- Anything you do here helps to get the message out and to further the work of God in the world around us.
- Fourth, encourage other men to get involved in the work God wants to do. Invite them to the Men's Breakfasts, or the Men's study, or to church. If you ask, they just might say yes.
- All of this depends on whether you believe the church exists to be used by God to accomplish His mission in the world.
- And if it is, do you believe He is calling you to be involved?
- You have a choice, you can be like the men of Israel, hanging out on the edge of the battle or you can be David dragging around the head of the giant Goliath.
- I know which I would prefer to be.
- Rise up men of God and fight!
- **Let's pray!**