

**1 Samuel 17 sermon : Part 5 – “David”**  
**All Saints Anglican Church Waitara**  
[www.waitara.anglican.asn.au](http://www.waitara.anglican.asn.au)

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Outline available. **KEY THEME:** “**God’s Direction.**”

**SEE the battle... and understand**

**III** – Baseball.

I remember the first big enemy I came up against. I was 14. Playing baseball. Against the Auburn Orioles. They were a mean team. And they were a BIG team. We had never seen such a big team before. Their pitcher was tall. And fast. We got struck out one by one. And I stepped up to the plate. The ball came so fast I barely saw it. And again. 2 strikes. The ball came down for a third time. I connected. The ball flew back to the outfield. I ran hard to first base. But then I looked up. And there standing on first base was perhaps the biggest 14 year old I had EVER seen. He was wider than I was tall, and taller than I was even if I was standing on a chair. And as I reached first base, a funny thing happened. I looked into his eyes, and I could see that he was an immovable object and I was heading straight for him. And as I connected with his stomach, I bounced further than I had ever bounced before, landing flat on my back, curled up in pain, completely winded, unable to breathe, and holding back the tears in front of my 14 year old team members.

I met the enemy head on. And bounced straight off.

As a 14 year old, it felt like a “David and Goliath battle”. The giant versus the skinny little kid. But in this case, Goliath won.

But the battle in 1 Samuel 17 is of course much bigger than that. This is more than just a children’s story about a small person beating a big person. This is a battle that helps us to understand a major theme of the Bible.

The battle takes place in the Valley of Elah. The Philistines are on one hill, the Israelites are on the other. A valley in between them. And out from among the ranks of the Philistines steps a champion, by the name of Goliath.

Over 9 feet tall.

Wearing an armour coat weighing 57 kilograms.

Full armour on his head and legs.

Huge weapons on this back. A bronze javelin, a spear with an iron head weighing 7 kilograms.

And a shield bearer in front of him.

And Goliath steps out from among the Philistines and makes them a deal (verse 8):

*“Choose a man and have him come down to me. 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.”*

And he says:

*“This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other!”*

The Israelites were terrified.

It’s a frightening thing to be faced with such a huge enemy. It seems almost hopeless. No chance of victory. For 40 days, verse 16 tells us, Goliath came out every morning and every evening and made the same challenge. Defying the ranks of Israel. Laughing at them. Mocking them. “Come on! Let’s fight! Send someone out!”

Even their new King, Saul, is terrified.

And then a young boy arrives on the scene. David. A shepherd. The youngest of 8 sons of Jesse. His Father has sent him up to the battle line with some bread and cheese for his brothers, who are

soldiers. And as David is up there delivering the food, he sees Goliath come out and make his challenge again. The Israelites, as usual, RAN from him in fear. But David starts asking questions. “Isn’t someone going to fight him?” “Who does this Philistine think he is, that he can stand up and defy the armies of the living God?” David can’t believe this guy.

And King Saul hears about David’s questions and calls for him. And, verse 32:

*“David said to Saul, ‘let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.’”*

It’s unbelievable. This small shepherd boy challenging this 9 ½ foot champion. Everyone is afraid, but David jumps straight in! he can’t believe that this Philistine is defying God and his people. He can’t believe that the armies of the living God are afraid of these Philistines.

King Saul offers David his armour, but it doesn’t fit. So David walks off to battle in his shepherd’s clothes. He doesn’t have any armour or a shield bearer. He doesn’t have any huge swords. He walks out to battle with some stones and a slingshot. Goliath laughs at him, but David keeps walking towards him, walking faster and faster, and says to this 9 ½ foot monster:

*“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. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head”*

David walks faster and faster. Goliath walks towards him. And David starts to run. Then he stops. He reaches into his bag, pulls out a stone, puts it in his slingshot, swings it around his head, releases the stone, strikes the Philistine, and knocks him down dead. He runs over to Goliath, pulls out Goliath’s sword, and chops off his head.

Goliath has been defying Israel’s God for 40 days, and no-one is prepared to fight him. But as soon as David meets the enemy, he stands up against him, and with the strength of God, strikes him down.

So what does this story mean for YOU and ME **TODAY???**

I think there are two important things to understand here.

### **1. First of all, who is the enemy today? For us?**

No doubt this week most of us heard about a little 3 year old Qian Xun, also known to us as Pumpkin, who was left at Melbourne airport this week. Her Father is believed to have killed his wife, Anan Liu, in New Zealand and left her body in the boot of a car, before flying to Melbourne. it was a sad story I think because it reminds us of the sadness of the world we live in. Nothing we do can stop these things happening. All around us in our world is sadness and death, sickness and evil, hate and war.

I want to suggest to you today, fro this passage, that these horrible things we face in this world are just the **symptoms** of a much bigger problem, symptoms of the **real** enemy we face. The **real** enemy, the enemy behind the tragedies of our world, are sin, and death, and Satan. These are the Goliaths we face. Sin and death and Satan stand before us every day. Sin threatens us at every turn. Death mocks us. Satan prowls around looking to devour us. Challenging us that we are powerless. That we can do nothing. The enemy seems **indestructible** to us. We cannot stand up against it and destroy it.

### **2. The second thing to understand is that WE don’t NEED to destroy it, because WE ARE NOT LIKE DAVID in this story. WE are like ISRAEL!**

We can read an event like this and think that we need to go into battle and destroy the giant Goliath of our time. But, like Israel, we are just not able to do that! The enemy is too big for us! We are powerless against this enemy! WE cannot put an end to sickness and death and murder. We cannot go into battle against sin and death and Satan. **DAVID** went into battle as God’s King. God appointed him for this battle. Our question is: **WHO goes into battle for us?** Against sin, death and Satan? Who is our David? Who is our King?

Our King is God's final, one and only King, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Jesus* has already fought, and given us the victory, over sin, and death, and Satan. And although we **struggle** every day against that enemy, we already have the victory. Jesus has paid for our sin on the cross. He has overcome death by his resurrection, and he has demonstrated his power over Satan and all the evil of our world. The struggle is not over, but the war has been won, by our King, Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:56-57:

*"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

We were powerless, but God has done it all for us through Jesus. Praise be to God!  
So what is our response to that? How do we live in response to that?

### **III** – "To the glory of God"

I grew up in a church full of stained glass windows and plaques all around the walls. Everything was dedicated and usually it had something on it like *"To the Glory of God, and in memory of John Smith."*

And one day it dawned on me. Every plaque and window that had the words "To the glory of God" was in memory of someone who was dead. It seemed things were only devoted to God's glory when someone died! And I wondered, is no-one prepared to stand for God's glory while they are alive?!?!

I wonder what would happen if, instead of windows and furniture, we committed **ourselves** "to the glory of God" while we were still living? If I said, "Here stands Bruce Stanley, committed to the glory of God, today, while I live and breathe." Because, quite simply, if we want to follow Jesus when we die, we must follow him while we live!

That's what David did. That's what Jesus did. They LIVED for the glory of God. I wonder what that would look like for us today – "**living** for the glory of God"?

We can live every day in fear of sin and death, OR we can live by trust in Jesus. We can live **without** fear. Life in Jesus means we don't NEED to fear or worry about the sin and death in the world. It means we can live with confidence – not confidence because we have a good job, or money, or a family. But confidence because in Jesus, sin and death and Satan have no hold over us. Goliath has been defeated.

We can fearlessly follow Jesus into battle every day, as we struggle against sin and death and Satan, knowing that the victory has already been won.

Do you live in fear, or do you live by faith?

Ask yourself: Where does my confidence, my happiness, my contentment, come from? From within myself? From the things of this world? Or in the knowledge that the Lord Jesus has defeated sin, and death, and Satan, for me, on the cross?

Let's pray.