



Trust and Trustability - Facing your giants with five smooth stones -

1Samuel 17:1-11,32-50

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3 Windows to view this story

Slide 1 : Now here's a question. Where in the story do we read God spoke to David and told him he had to go and sort out Goliath? Where was David's commissioning word, revelation?

It's not there! - How many of us - especially older Christians - I include myself - would ever have dared do anything so risky without a specific word from God? On what authority did David step in to this situation? Not a situation-specific word from God - but a well-developed understanding of the ways of God.

Many years before Moses had prayed this:

Exodus 33:13 "Now therefore, if I have found favour in your sight, please show me now your ways,..."

Some years later David wrote in Psalm 25:4-5

*"Make me know Your ways, O Lord;
Teach me Your paths.
Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day"*

When David heard and saw Goliath something rose up in him as he recognised and understood something cosmic was going on here - God's Kingdom was being mocked and attacked and His people were becoming demoralised by the ungodly hordes and this was not right and David said so.

Notice David didn't act the lone maverick superhero. (One reason Spiderman gets into trouble is that he acts outside of the established Law enforcement authority) David isn't like that - when he acts he does so under the authority and with the blessing of Saul - The King. David wasn't following God's instruction book - He was following God's heart. David's "God consciousness" was a defining characteristic - more later.

Second slide : A good friend of mine said recently: When God calls us to a task God often surprises us by using what we would think of as ordinary - perhaps even despise as insignificant in the work of the Kingdom of God.

MSG: vs40

40 Then David took his shepherd's staff, selected five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the pocket of his shepherd's pack, and with his sling in his hand approached Goliath.

David selects 5 smooth stones - ordinary things but

Not a randomly grabbed handful of pebbles

- but selected stones (Each one of us chosen 1 Peter 2:9 But you are A chosen race, A royal priesthood, A holy nation, A people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;)
- Smooth stones - worn down - but not worn out

(Prophetic word for some this morning - what you have been through has worn you smooth - not out - to ready you for effective service)

- Familiar tools to David

Moses and Elijah both used their walking sticks in miracles

The Widow who had run out of money used a little jar of oil

Each of these familiar - well worn items became miraculous in the Hands of God at the time of need.

Even Jesus (John 9:6), spits on some dirt on the ground, makes a muddy clay and uses it in healing the sight of a blind man - familiar - despised items - dirty items, spit and dust in the hands of God - You make have a low self image - identify yourself with nothing more significant or worthy than dirt on the ground or spit - but to Jesus - in His hands you will become a means of his power, grace and healing.

This miracle is a showcase of Jesus' ministry method - He sought out the despised and the lowly to work with them and elevate them to a place of dignity - tax collectors, misguided terrorists, prostitutes, the unclean - the nobodies - worked in His hands become transformed - Jesus can start that same work on you today if you want Him to - you just have to ask him.

So 5 smooth stones - 5 in the Bible is the number representing the Grace of God - God's generous gift to us that we don't earn or deserve. The Bible tells us we are all given abilities-talents-gifts by God - He will use these to overcome challenges that come our way.

Third slide - Goliath Saul and the army shared the same poverty mentality - poverty not of their own ability or resources - but a poverty in their understanding of God.

He (Goliath - my problem) is big we are too small

(Israel facing entering Canaan grasshopper in their/our eyes).

Numbers 13 - Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. There also we saw the Nephilim Giants ; and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Saul didn't think he had what was needed - David possessed more than enough to overcome Goliath. He had - not 5 stones and a sling - he had a living - real awareness of the Living God - "God Alive" as the message puts it. In his lonely wilderness wanderings with the sheep David hadn't spent the time moaning about all he was missing out on in the big house or in the excitement of the Army and following Saul - He had spent his wilderness time cultivating an awareness of God - The one in whom we live and move and have our being. David had slept out under the stars and they spoke of the Glory and Power of the Creator - David's God is a big God - bigger than any so called "giant". And that's what we hear as he questions and speaks with such confidence.

Poem - Malcolm Duncan

I want to be a God-gazer,
captured by the brilliance
that springs from the radiance
of You.

I want to be a God-gazer!
Not a cheap food grazer
or an easy option lazer.
I want to be a trail-blazer
for the ordinary, everyday life.

I want to be a God-gazer -
not just copying the halcyon ways
that shimmer brighter in the haze
of by-gone rays and the good old days.

I want to be a God-gazer!
Looking beyond the trappings of success,
cutting through the stucco of respectability
like a laser piercing darkness.

I want to be a God-gazer!
Reaching for the stars and
seeing beauty in the moment by
becoming fluent in the language
of the God Who is here, Who is now.

I want to be a God-gazer
until my imagination is saturated;
until my thirst is sated;
until my passion is stirred;
until my intellect is stretched
as far as it can be;

David 5 smooth stones - only needed one for this giant - more than enough! His view of God that was in right proportion - Our God and His love is Big - Huge - Massive - far bigger than any so called "Giant". A view we get by being God Gazers - not problem gazers

We are ordinary people in the hands of an extraordinary God
- more than enough for the Kingdom life He is calling us to live.
- more than enough to overcome the shouty giants that tease and taunt and defy us.

Our well worn abilities - proven talents and skills joined to a generous heart are more than enough to overcome any enemy however big and threatening they appear.

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