

Sermon Series: Unlikely Heroes

9/20/20 Sermon Title: "You Got This"

Biblical Passage: 1 Samuel 17:31-47

Passage Background and Summary

In this passage, Saul meets with David as Saul has heard about David's questions as it relates to challenging the Philistines. David volunteers to fight the Philistine, but Saul is hesitant because David is "just a boy." Nevertheless, David is insistent and discusses how he has killed lions and bears in protecting his flock and will do the same to Goliath. David asserts that it is the Lord who brings deliverance, and Saul sends him on his way saying, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!" Yet, Saul does not send David out unprepared. Saul puts armor on David; however, he struggles to walk in it and takes it off. David will go to battle with just his staff, a slingshot, and five stones. When David encounters Goliath, Goliath mocks him for his youth and appearance. He then curses "David by his gods." Yet, David remains firm in knowing that it is the Lord who will deliver Goliath and the Philistines into his hands.

Sermon Points

The nation of Israel needed someone who could stand up to Goliath. Have you ever faced a giant or Goliath in your life? You probably have, and if not, sooner or later you will. We have a current global giant in COVID-19. There may be giants of unemployment or housing insecurity. For those who have stable employment, they may have feelings of unhappiness or feelings of despair that manifest as giants. Giants keep coming, and in facing giants, we may need someone bigger or stronger than us. Still, we have somebody who will stand with us. The Lord is on our side.

Like David, who went from taking bread and cheese to his brothers and the commander to battling Goliath, we may discover that God or life has changed our agenda. Nevertheless, we must be faithful to the assignment that we have in this season. God has a way of using everything for His glory, big jobs and little jobs, triumphs and setbacks. Like Saul to David, people may tell you that you're not the right size or don't have the right equipment or right training. You may feel like you're out of your league, but God is preparing you now.

This is your pasture time. You will be better equipped with the skills and knowledge developed in the pasture time, in the quiet time. It was in the pasture that David killed lions and bears that attacked his sheep. It is in this preparation time that we come to know the God who will be with us when we go from the quiz to the test. Yes, there are lessons that are learned in the green pastures as sometimes in the pastures there is danger. Even amid danger and worry, we learn to keep our eyes on God as we are safe in God's arms in the pastures. In the pastures, we come to know the king in us.

Like King T'challa in Black Panther, our whole life has been preparing us to embrace the royalty within us. In the Bible, David the boy soldier became a king, and in his lineage is another king. Not just a king, but the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. If Jesus lives inside of us, then there's a king inside of us waiting to stand up. All things will work together for good as we go from the pasture to the battlefield or from the battlefield to the pasture. There is royalty inside of us, and we can trust in the Lord to deliver us and see us through.

Reflection Questions

1. What giant(s) have you ever faced in your life?
2. How do you overcome the giants in your life?
3. When encountering giants, are you more like David or his brothers and others in the army?
4. Have people ever doubted you because of your appearance or seeming lack of qualifications? What happened?
5. What have you encountered during your time(s) in the pasture? How did it prepare you for what was to come?
6. Are you currently in a pasture or on the battlefield? How has God been with you in this time?