



Empowering People to Change the World

Worshipper Warrior IX: David and Goliath Part 1

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David & Goliath: A Battle for your Imagination

Everyone stand now and hold up your Bible...

*God can move mountains in my life
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit
With Jesus, nothing will be impossible*

We are in a series on the life of David entitled WorshipperWarrior, from my book...

In the final chapter of Surprised by Joy, CS Lewis writes briefly of his transition from “pure and simple” theism to Christianity. It was on a walk with JRR Tolkien on Addison’s Walk along the Thames River at Oxford and the subsequent discussion that followed. The problem with Lewis according to Tolkien “lay not in his rational failure to understand the theory, but in his imaginative failure to grasp its significance”

- Tolkien argued that Lewis ought to approach the New Testament with the same sense of imaginative openness expectation that he approached pagan myths in his professional studies.
- “The story of Christ is simply a true myth: a myth working on us in the same way as others, but with this tremendous difference that it really happened.”

Imagination: the faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses

- I want you to use your God anointed imagination to look at a story that is all too familiar to us, the Sunday School story...David and Goliath
- I believe this story, that really happened, gives us an imaginative glimpse into some key aspects of becoming a Worshipper and Warrior

- God has called each of you men to be worshippers and warriors and the battle will be between your ears—a battle for your imagination!

1 Samuel 17:1-3 A Divided Mind

- The Shephelah, is a mountainous region in Palestine that follows the Mediterranean plain from the sea into the valley of Elah. It is the most strategic valley in Israel
 - Many warriors have fought in this storied valley
 - It is the location where the Muslim Saladin fought against the knights of the Crusades in 12th century
 - This valley played a key role in the Maccabean wars with Syria a thousand years before
- When Saul meets the Philistines, they are moving eastward from the sea. Their goal is to capture the high ground near Bethlehem and split Saul's kingdom in two. The Philistines are on the southern ridge of the valley; Israel on the other
- The Philistines' strategy was to divide the kingdom of Israel through taking the valley of Elah
- There are Philistines in your life that want to divide your mind
- Imagination is between your ears. The battle is always between your ears

Vs. 4 The Giant

- There is a Goliath in all of our lives that is waiting for you in your valley of Elah
- This giant is wanting to divide your mind
- This is the Goliath-saturated imagination!

Vs. 5-7

- The Giant in our life may have been there since childhood. It captivates your mind, it overwhelms your imagination

Characteristics to the Goliath-saturated Imagination

1) The Goliath/Giant seems Insurmountable

- a. It's at the core of your identity
- b. It's overwhelming your life
- c. It's always 9 feet tall and armed with the most sophisticated armor

Vs. 8-10

- This is what they called "single combat" in ancient times
- To save the bloodshed of so many being killed...
- But this is exactly what the Goliath-saturated Imagination does...

2) The Battle is 'Single Combat'. I'm on my own. Alone.

- d. Satan always wants you to believe you're on your own
- e. Alone
- f. "I've always failed at this. I can't change..."

Vs. 11

3) Always filled with dismay and fear. It taunts you continually!!

- What fear is to Satan, faith is to God. Satan always uses fear to create spiritual paralysis
- Fear is Satan's greatest tool in a man's life.
 - Fear of not being strong enough
 - The shame of the man is his strength
 - Ex. Every man fears being the kid anyone can push up against the locker and called a whimp

- Goliath's taunt you with your shame
- Brene Brown, noted qualitative researcher and sociologist, says "Shame is the fear of disconnection." (Watch her TED talk on shame and vulnerability) More on this at Wholeheart Advance
- We all think, "Is there something about me that if people see it I won't be worthy of connection?" No one wants to talk about it and the less you talk about it, the more you have it. It's universal. All of us have it.
- Vulnerability is the beginning of breaking the power of shame. Shame is THE big elephant in the room in a marriage. If you don't deal with shame issues, you will continually play hide and seek with your spouse, continually have disconnection, and fight over petty things

Vs. 12 NOW DAVID! Insert Jesus here! Cross out David, and put in your name "**NOW John or David**" **Next to Jesus, put your name in**

Most of us never get past vs 11 in our imagination! But if we are to discover and walk in our God anointed destiny, you have to get into David and what this young man brings into the valley of Elah...

Everything is about to change! Listen, people are always looking for one brave soul. It's amazing what can happen in the church, on an athletic team, in your company, in your marriage, in your family, when one person decides to believe; when one person comes with a God-saturated Imagination

The God-saturated Imagination of a Worshipper Warrior

Vs. 12-14

- So if the 3 oldest are in the army and you have to be 20 years old to be in, David might only be around 13 or 14 years old!!
- God often does His greatest work with the youngest, the least experienced, the most vulnerable, the least talented

- That might be you—the least, the last, the guy no one picked for the pick-up game!!
- Perfect. You don't have the natural talents needed but you have something better, something bigger, you have GOD! You have Jesus!
- To become an overcomer you have to learn from David in how to develop a God-saturated Imagination

Vs. 15-22

- David's running a half marathon daily, running 10 miles from Bethlehem, back and forth

1) The God-saturated Imagination starts with being Faithful

- a. Just be faithful. David is submitted to his dad
God sets you up; God's writing your story
- b. God had developed David for this moment. It's time.
- c. David never saw it coming
- d. He loves you; he's got a plan for you
- e. Walk it out. Don't quit
- f. You are not a failure!! Your failures don't define you. God's working in you so he can work through you

Vs. 23-28

- **If decide to start taking on the Goliath-sized thinking in your life and start fighting like a warrior, there will always be an older brother!**
 - Eliab is still smarting at being overlooked in by Samuel
 - You are here this morning because God has placed a new imagination within you, a growing passion...
 - But if you attend Wholeheart Advance, you will come back changed in your thinking. When you get changed in your

thinking, you will change in your behavior...and guess what?
Not everyone's going to like it

- So, get ready to become a worshipper and warrior!!

Vs. 29

- What a response! David's thinking had not been conditioned in the Valley of Elah, but on the hills of Bethlehem

2) The God saturated Imagination is birthed in Worship

- **You are a worshipper first, then a warrior. We war from worship. We battle from Presence**
- Look back at chapter 16. David's worship drove off demons!! David didn't drive off demons, the Presence of God on David drove back demons
- Now don't miss this—David's worship, prayer life invited the presence of God and David brought God's presence into the Valley of Elah!
- David entered the Shephelah, the valley of Elah with a mindset and heartset built through worship in the hills and valleys of Bethlehem
- Listen now, David had a God-saturated Imagination in a Goliath-saturated valley! That's the world we live in men!
- Ex. In one of my most challenging times as a I Prayer Walked, God spoke to me "You are a lover of God and creation and a discipler of men"
 - God has given each of you men an assignment from heaven
 - You are each uniquely called by God to do world changing with your life
 - You are a world changer! You each have an assignment from God
 - The Cause of Christ through you
 - God is working in you in order that His Holy Spirit might work through you!

Vs. 30-37

- This is probably the most impactful set of verses in our study today
- Do you hear what David is saying? He has learned how to be a warrior through a “secret history with God”

3) The God saturated Imagination is developed in the Boot Camp of a Secret History with God

- With no one looking, no one noticing, David has gone after the bear and lion and fought them. In the posture of his own responsibility as a sheep herder for Jesse, David has risked his life for his sheep
- He is a warrior in private before he’s a warrior in public
- You are being tested all the time in your private life—with porn, with the secretary at work, with your dating life, with how you handle your money, with how you navigate offensive relationships...
- We war out of worship! It’s only through intimacy with Christ that we can effectively war in our valleys of Elah

Vs. 38-51

4) The God saturated Imagination believes he/she has a unique assignment from God

- You don’t have to wear the armor of anyone else. You have a unique assignment from God and a unique stone He has given you
- Listen: God’s wanting to write your story, will you let him?? Or are you going to keep adding your own chapters. God wants to write your own unique story
- Before you were born, still in your mother’s womb, God was forming your unique set of gifts and talents for the slaying of Goliath’s in your life and in our community

- You were born to be worshippers and warriors. This is your time. Satan's time in your life is done! It's over! This is your time.