



Valley Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Today we will look at the battle between David and Goliath. A story where a little shepherd boy named David slays the giant Goliath with a small smooth stone. We will discover from this story to never underestimate that something small in the name of the living God can accomplish great things.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers and links are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am. You can join in one of two ways:

By telephone (audio only)

1 (312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 867 5713 3623

By video with computer, tablet, or smartphone – click the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623>

(if you need a live link you can go to the homepage of our website at www.vccbhm.org)

David reminds us what God will do when we are in a bind. The answer is that He fights for us. As the scripture says, “Remain calm, the Lord will fight for you.” (Exodus 14:4)

You are special to me. God Bless You, Edd

Valley Christian Church

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2020

PRELUDE

"God Will Take Care of You"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We believe in you, but often our faith is weak.
People: We believe in our heads, but we have trouble finding trust in our hearts.
Leader: The stress of life brings us down.
People: The suffering of the world grieves us.
Leader: We want a faith that rises up from within us.
People: We want a faith like David against Goliath in our morning scripture that carries us through the difficult times.
Leader: Grant us a deeper faith, O God. Hear our plea.
People: Give us faith that depends on you when our resources are depleted.
Leader: Thank you, O God, for hearing our plea for faith.
People: Thank you for increasing our faith and trust.
We come now in faith and love to worship you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

*My faith looks up to thee; Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away; O let me from this day
Be wholly thine*

*May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart
My zeal inspire; As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be
A living fire*

*While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread
Be thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day;
Wipe sorrow's tears away; Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside*

INVOCATION

We have come to this time of worship, O God, because we have felt your grace in our lives and that grace has awakened our faith. We come here to celebrate and

nourish our faith. Our faith sustains us, and has often carried us through difficult times. We are indeed grateful for our faith and we offer our praise as our faith looks up to you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

I Samuel 17:4, 8-10, 37, 41-45; 48-50

MEDITATION

"David and Goliath"

See Insert for Meditation

HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

*Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

*When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

O God, there are times we must acknowledge that our own strength and wisdom and resources are insufficient to meet the needs of those around us. The sicknesses are too advanced, the wounds are too deep, the agony is too intense, and the situations are too complicated. Our hearts and spirits long to reach out to fix and to heal, but we fall so short. It is in these times we must turn to you, heavenly Father, for you see and you hear and you heal and you make whole. You are our help and our hope and our strong right arm. We bow before you and lay at your feet our brothers and sisters in need. Hear now our prayers. (Pray for the concerns of the congregation). And now for your hope and comfort of your grace, we give you thanks, in our precious Savior's Name we pray, Amen.

CALL TO COMMUNION

Today, O Lord, move us from the Communion tables in our homes to live as messengers of Good News in the world.

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

“Here at Thy Table, Lord”

*Here at thy table, Lord, this sacred hour,
O let us feel thee near, in loving power,
calling our thoughts away from self and sin,
as to thy banquet hall we enter in.*

*Sit at the feast, dear Lord, break Thou the bread;
Fill Thou the cup that brings life to the dead;
That we may find in Thee pardon and peace,
And from all bondage win a full release.*

*Come then, O holy Christ feed us, we pray;
touch with thy pierced hand each common day,
making this earthly life full of thy grace,
till, in the home of heaven, we find our place.*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, “Take eat and
take drink.”

**SHARING OUR
OFFERING
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering with the church by mail or
bring it by the church office. Thank you for your love
gifts.

**OFFERTORY
PRAYER**

O God, you have been so good to us, and now we offer
a portion of your goodness back to you. We pray that
you would bless our gifts so that they might become
gifts to others both here in Birmingham and around the
world. Where there is pain, bring healing. Where there
is despair, bring hope. Where there is war, bring peace.
Where there is darkness, bring light. We offer these
prayers in the name of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God go before us to show us the way, behind us to
encourage us, above us to watch over us, below us to lift
us up, and within us, so others might always see the
light of Christ shining through our lives. Amen.

Faith

is the **SUBSTANCE**
of things *hoped for,*
the **EVIDENCE**
of things *not seen.*

MEDITATION
Sunday, July 26, 2020

“David and Goliath”

It is good to be together again and to feel the spirit of our group at worship, loving and praying for one another. Today we begin our series of sermons on biblical characters. The most famous battle described in the Old Testament was not fought between two armies, but between two people. It was the battle in the valley between David and Goliath. Let's look at these two biblical characters.

Their story can be found in the 17th chapter of the first book of Samuel. The story begins with the armies of Israel and the Philistines on opposite sides of the valley, screaming at each other. The Philistine giant Goliath would shout, “Don't you have any men among you who have the courage to come out and fight me?” The Israelites would run to their tents with fear.

David comes to the battlefield and said, “What is going on? How is it that this giant Philistine out there mocks you and makes fun of you and none of you is willing to go out and fight him?” They replied, “We are afraid.” So he said, “I will go out and fight Goliath. This man is defying the very God of Israel. I am not afraid.”

They sent word to Saul that there was a young man ready and willing to fight Goliath. David went to Saul's tent and said, “I will go and fight in God's strength and in my own experience.” King Saul said, “Take my armor for your defense.” They brought out Saul's armor and put it on David's shoulders and gave him a large sword which he strapped on. Then David said, “I can't fight in this armor. I have to go as I am in my own experience of confidence, and in my trust in God.” So he shed the armor and went forward to meet Goliath, who screamed,

“Am I a dog that you are coming out to me with a stick in your hand?” You know what David did. He put a stone in his sling and aimed for the giant's forehead. It stunned Goliath, and David eventually killed him.

There are basically two points to this story. First, you can't fight with someone else's armor. When you have to face your giant, be yourself. Again, notice that Saul's armor didn't work at all. It was too big, too heavy, too cumbersome, and David could barely move in it. So David said, “Thanks, but no thanks, I can't wear another man's armor. I have to do it my way.”

You know why don't you? Because he wasn't Saul! He was David! Saul's armor would not work for him. It did not fit. David had to be himself. He had to do it his way. So this the first lesson – be yourself.

The second lesson that we learn from this story, is that when you must face a giant, draw strength from God. See how this is expressed in I Samuel 17:45. “But David said to the giant, ‘You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord.’ David drew his courage, his strength, and his confidence from the promise that God was with him. David trusted in God completely. In fact, he becomes in this story a model of faith for all of us who face obstacles.

David is just a tool of God here. This isn't a story about little David's triumph over the big giant against all odds. It is a statement about the power of God over everything that seeks to bring us down. God is the main actor in the story. Goliath represents evil and sin we fight against every day of our lives. The good news is we are not fighting them all by ourselves. God is fighting in and through us – that is, if we trust in God enough to join the battle. This is the good news of the Bible. God is the power source; God is always with us. When you must face a giant, be yourself, and then draw strength from God.

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