**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 8-8-2021
David as Warrior**

About a week ago, my family went down to the York Fair, or as my daughter Mya calls it, The Fairis. And we were there for a few hours in the evening and had a very good time together. The last thing that we did before we called it a night was rode the Farris Wheel. Now - quick show of hands, how many of you are Ferris Wheel people? I wouldn’t call myself a ferris wheel person, but it was still fun going on with the girls.

So we entered the Ferris wheel and because we have 6 in our family and each container only has room for 4 people to sit, Kara sat with two of our girls and I sat with the other two.

And one thing that is fun to do from the top of the ferris wheel is to look down at the carnival below. All the rides and the food vendors and the people look much smaller than when we are standing on the ground.

Truly, perspective makes a big difference, doesn’t it? Back on the ground, our vision is limited. But up high in the air, we can see things differently. And the things that once look so big, now appear rather little.

Truly, perspective makes a big difference. Let us keep this in mind as we continue our series on David.

Regarding David, I am certain of two things for today. First, I am certain that David never rode a ferris wheel, as he was born a little too early for that. But second, and much more important, I am certain that David saw things from a different perspective than what most people saw. And this flowed out from his heart and his strong relationship with God.

You see, what looked huge to more people – namely Goliath, looked much smaller to him.

Today’s passage is that familiar, famous story of David and the giant Philistine, Goliath.

To set the stage a bit, it is helpful to know that for years the Philistines were the biggest enemies to the people of Israel. We can read much about their conflict in the pages of Scripture.

Today we are going to highlight sections from the famous confrontation between David and Goliath. After this important battle, David’s life would no longer be lived in relative obscurity, for his fame would be known far and wide. As I read this longer passage, I will pause here and there to share a few thoughts with you.

Our passage is 1 Samuel 17:1-16, 26, 31-50

**Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.**

**4A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+17%3A1-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7623a)**]**

(Now friends, that is about 9 feet and 9 inches, by the way).

**5He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+17%3A1-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7624b)**];**

(that’s about 125 pounds for his armor. Difficult to lift, let alone wear).

**6on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+17%3A1-16&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7626c)**]**

(so the iron point of his spear weighed about 15 pounds)

**His shield bearer went ahead of him.**

**8Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9If 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.” 10Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” 11On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.**

**(Now friends, this form of combat was practiced at times. Goliath was challenging Saul to send out one man and the single-combat winner would win the battle for their nation). Again, this is a true story.**

**12Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul’s time he was very old. 13Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. 14David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s sheep at Bethlehem.**

**16For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.**

**26David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”**

**31What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.**

**32David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”**

**33Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”**

**34But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”**

**Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”**

**38Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.**

**“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.**

**41Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44“Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”**

**45David said to the Philistine, “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. 46This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”**

**48As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.**

**50So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.**

Again, friends, what a fascinating and famous story. Even people who have never read a Bible have heard of David and Goliath. And for every sports fan, David represents every underdog who somehow defeats the heavily favored team.

But sisters and brothers, as big of a contrast as there is between David and Goliath, the story is actually not really about David and Goliath --- although there is an obvious comparison there. The real contrast is between David and Saul.

Saul was the current king of Israel. But Saul’s perspective on the conflict with Goliath and the Philistines was far different than David’s perspective.

Saul would be on the ground level, but David would be like at the top of the ferris wheel.

And because of Saul’s poor perspective, he does not see Goliath correctly. In Saul’s eyes, this man was basically invincible.

And so at first, Saul essentially tells David, “**you can’t go out and fight this guy. You are just a young man and Goliath has been a warrior from his youth” – it would be suicide.**

But David kept insisting that he would fight him. And this is key. David does not try to pretend that Goliath is actually tiny or that he is not really a skilled warrior. David’s healthy perspective saw Goliath compared to the Lord – to the living God. And compared to God, Goliath was nothing. Compared to the living God, Goliath is quite small.

Yes, David was also a skilled warrior. But his trust was in the living God, not in himself.

Sisters and brothers, David cultivated his relationship with God that gave him a far better perspective than those around him had. In other words, David would win the battle because of what he was doing long before the battle took place.

And we all know the story --- David takes one of the five stones and slings it and smacks the Philistine in the forehead and he falls to the ground. Victory came from the Lord.

As we read the Bible, we see how this story catapulted David’s fame and eventually we see David made King of Israel.

But as we process this familiar story, I would like us today to focus on one big thing – perspective.

Saul had a poor perspective. Although he was the current King of Israel, he wasn’t seeing things from God’s perspective. David, on the other hand, saw things rightly. David saw from God’s perspective. This is the contrast.

As we seek to live out the Christian life, as we seek to follow Jesus our Savior and Lord, we must cultivate God’s perspective.

How do we do that? A lot has to do with what we are putting in our mind. Saul was hearing and receiving the news that increased his fear and anxiety, rather than the news that would strengthen his faith.

David, on the other hand, was choosing to fill his mind with the truth of God and His Word. He must have been prioritizing time in God in prayer and worship and pondering God’s written Word in his heart --- and David was being filled with faith, rather than overcome with fear.

Scripture teaches us that “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.” Choosing to walk in God’s perspective helps lead to a life of power, love, and soundness in our thinking, rather than a life controlled by fear.

Friends, this truth is as important in our day as it was in David’s day.

I love how an evangelist named Leif Hetland often says “Big God, small problems. Little god, big problems.”

Friends, our God is a big God. There is nothing too big for you to go through in life, when you walk hand and hand with Christ.

Jesus did promise his followers that they would have problems and challenges in life – they will come our way, we can count on it.

But when we gain God’s perspective and then seek to live out our life accordingly, there is victory in our life. God’s Word teaches that we are not to be conformed to the pattern of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. And this transformation will enable us to better know and live out the mind and heart of God in our lives.

Perspective is everything. Even when it came to David’s armor. Saul’s armor didn’t work. It weighed him down. We need to let Jesus himself be our armor. We are to walk in His strength, by His grace.

And, from now on, whether you are at a fair or a carnival, may the sight of a Ferris wheel remind you of our need to live from God’s perspective – it makes all the difference in the world.

Let’s pray…