



Title | Starting Across the Valley
Series | Making a Difference in a Nation Adrift
Text | 1 Samuel 17:1-54
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Date | August 4, 2024

Sermon Notes

1 Samuel 17:17 And Jesse said to David his son, “Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. **18** Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them.” *ESV*

1 Samuel 17:28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, “Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.” *ESV*

1 Samuel 17:33 And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.” *ESV*

1 Samuel 17:38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, **39** and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.” So David put them off. *ESV*

1 Samuel 17:40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine. *NLT*

1 Samuel 17:42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. **43** And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. **44** The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” *ESV*

Big Idea:

1 Samuel 17:40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine. *NLT*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-18. How do you think David felt about being held back from the battlefield because he was too young? Have there been times when you felt ignored or undervalued or unused or passed over?

Tuesday:

Read 1 Samuel 17:19-28. What is the response of Eliab to David showing up? How might this have been a discouragement for David? Have there been times when you have heard voices falsely suggesting that you don't belong with the important people, that you're an imposter, and your motives are evil?

Wednesday:

Read 1 Samuel 17:29-39. What is Saul's initial response to David's offer to fight Goliath? How might this have been a discouragement to David? When Saul urges David to use his armor that doesn't fit him, how might this also have been a discouragement to David?

Thursday:

Read 1 Samuel 17:40-58. It is common to view ourselves the way other people view us. Is this healthy? How do you think David was able to overcome the discouragements of how others viewed him (including Jesse, Eliab, Saul, and Goliath)? Why is it important to see ourselves the way God sees us? What is our primary source for determining how God sees us?

Friday:

Read 1 Samuel 16:7, Psalm 139:13-17 (written by David), and Ephesians 1:1-14. How do these verses speak to how God views us?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, through your word to me in Scripture, give me the eyes and the faith to see the me you see. Amen.

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