

WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

HAPPY NEW YEAR AGAIN!!!!!!

Well, here we are again, at the first day of the New Year 2017. There is just something about a new year, a fresh start, the hope of a productive and successful life in the year ahead. The anticipation of a career advancement or just a chance to get caught up with the bills from last year. Maybe 2017 is the year that you will finally get out of debt and be free from all those bills. What is it that you are anticipating will happen in your life this year? Whatever it is that you are hoping for, just be careful. We have all heard of "New Years resolutions" right? These are things that we shout out, on New Years Eve, and say this is going to happen in our life this coming year and then wake up on New Years day forgetting what we proclaimed, last night, and go on to live the same way we did the last year. Oops!! I didn't mean to put a damper on your resolution, I am just saying that there are a lot of these so called resolutions that don't turn out the way we think they should. However, there are people out there who have been successful with their resolutions because they have incorporated another individual into it and worked as a team to see the resolution through. I think as Christians, we need to seek God out and ask him what it is that he wants done in our life this year. So many times we think that our life revolves around "ME", and if we make our resolution for our life this year around "ME", chances of it actually happening are pretty slim. So if we, as individuals of the body of Christ, would consider putting Him first place in our lives this year, and would pursue Him as the Lord of our life, 2017 will be a year to remember.

Today, I want to talk about a young man in the Old Testament who was the youngest son of eight, and whose father was Jesse. I am sure that we have all heard the name of this young man and what he was so famous for. His name was David. And yes he took down that evil giant Goliath. We are going to look at how God worked this all out in David's life, and what simple thing in David's life God used to help David take down the giant.

Let's pray:

Now you will notice that in your program there is only one question for you to fill out. My hope is that you will not be in a rush to complete the question, but go home and ask God the question, seek Him for the answer. So just take some notes and don't worry about getting behind as we look at David's life as a young man.

I am going to review a little of David's life, which will take most of the time I have.

1 Samuel 15, we see that Saul was King of Israel. He is ordered, by God, through Samuel, the prophet, to destroy the Amalekites because they opposed the Israelites, the children of God, when they came from Egypt. Saul was supposed to destroy everything that was associated with the Amalekites.

Vs. 3 says, to Saul, "Go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation- men, women, children babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys."

Simple instructions to be followed. But Saul couldn't see wasting all of the cattle and thought he should spare the Amalek King, Agag's life.

1 Samuel 15 vs. 10

The Lord says to Samuel, "I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command."

I am not going to pursue Saul's life at this point, but I want to encourage you to go back and read the story of Saul to find out what happens to him.

So God rejects Saul as King of Israel.

1 Samuel 16

Samuel is instructed to go find the new king that God has chosen, from the family of Jesse. Samuel was instructed to anoint the son of Jesse that God had picked out to be king of Israel. Jesse had eight sons, Samuel thought for sure that the oldest son would be king. But the Lord told Samuel in vs.7 "don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

As we look at this story of David, I just want to remind us of the many stories in the bible that have to do with God choosing people who are looked at by society, as those who are unsuccessful, low lives, and losers, and God uses these individuals to fulfill His great purpose. These individuals were used by God because he knew they were dedicated to serving Him and they were willing to carry out His will in their life.

So how about you this morning? Do you feel you don't have what it takes to serve God? Do you feel that you have been forgotten by God and that you wouldn't be able to do anything for him? Hopefully by the end of this message you will have a change of heart.

Vs.7-10, Samuel gets through all of the seven brothers and none of these have been chosen to be king.

Vs. 11-12, Samuel asks if these are all the sons Jesse has. Jesse replies, "no. The youngest is still out in the field watching the sheep and goats." David was reliable, all the other brothers must not have had anything to do, but David was out still working regardless of who was visiting.

Vs. 13, David is anointed King of Israel in front of his older brothers.

Can you imagine how that must have made the older brothers feel? Jealousy, remorse, rage and anger are probably some things that were going through their mind. I can imagine when the seven older brothers got together that they would say things like; how is this lowly Shepard boy going to do anything as King. He doesn't have the qualifications to rule. He's been tending sheep and goats all his life, how can he tend to God's people?

Ok. Moving on. in vs:14-23, David is used by Saul to ease the troubling spirit that came upon him after disobeying God. David would play his harp (electric guitar) for Saul, this would remove Saul's depression and fear. David was then made Saul's armor bearer. Saul loved David very much and wanted him to remain in his service.

In 1 Samuel 17: Goliath is terrorizing the Israelite army. Saul is still leading the Israelite army and this giant is causing them to be terrified and deeply shaken. Now, David is still at home watching his father's sheep and goats, while his three oldest brothers are out fighting in Saul's army. Jesse was wondering

how his sons, that were in battle, were doing, so he decides to send David to the battle field with some food for them. This way David could report back to Jesse, when he returned.

David goes out to the battle field and sees for the first time this giant, Goliath, and hears the usual taunt the giant shouts to the Israelite army. In vs. 26b, David asks "Who is this pagan philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" vs.28 David's oldest brother, Eliab, was mad at David for coming out to the battle field and sticking his nose in their battle. Eliab told David, why don't you go back home and take care of the sheep and goats, that's your job, keep your nose out of our business. David, being the typical younger child, ignored his brother and continued to ask what the reward was for the individual who kills the giant? This information got back to Saul and Saul sent for David. Remember that David was very important to Saul.

Vs.32-33,

David tells Saul not to worry about this philistine, because he would take care of him. David was confident that he could take the giant down. Saul didn't believe David. He said there was no way possible that he could defeat this giant man of war.

Vs. 34-36

David tells Saul of the many times he saved the sheep and goats from the mouths of the lions and bears, and that if the lions and bears would turn on him, he would grab them by the jaw and club them to death. And this is what David's plan was for this philistine giant.

David had faith in his God, the same God who delivered him from the lions and bears, to deliver him from this giant.

Vs. 37

Saul had no choice but to let David go after Goliath.

Vs.38-40

Saul tries to help out David by giving him his own armor to protect David, but David was not used to wearing such things so he left them behind. David took with him the only things he had ever used in battling the lions and bears, and that was, a shepherd's staff and a sling. He didn't even have the ammunition for the sling yet, he would pick that up on his way out to the battle.

So what do you have, that God can use, to help grow his church and further His kingdom?

Vs.41-44

David seeks out the Giant that has been hindering the movement of Gods army.

Vs.45-47(read this through)

David spoke to the problem with faith in his God. He let the giant know that it was His God that would be doing the fighting, God was going to deliver the giant into David's hands, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. How would David cut off the giants head when David didn't even have a sword?

Vs. 48-49

David was full of faith in his God, as Goliath moved closer, David ran to meet him, knowing that God was in control. David didn't sit back and come up with a strategy on what was the best way to conquer the giant. He used what he had on him at the time, and that was a staff and a simple sling, as he picked up a stone and let it go towards the giant, God directed it into the forehead of the giant.

Vs.50-51, with the Giant on the ground David easily took the giant's sword, killed the giant and removed his head. Yah!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The good guys win.

Ok, so you might be saying to yourself, David was chosen as a king, of course God was going to use him to deliver Israel, God's chosen people from the hands of a Giant, but I am just me. I am nothing special, just a regular human just trying to survive in this world.

If you are a born again Christian and you have made Jesus Christ to be Lord of your life, the bible says in 1 Peter 2:9, that you are a chosen people. You are a royal priest, a holy nation. God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.

We as Christians, need to understand that God is on our side. He is working in us if we allow him to. Is there something that you know God wants you to do, But you just don't feel like you are equipped for the task? Sometimes God will give you just a sliver of an idea, to see what you will do with it, and if you take that idea and begin to pray about it, he will give you a little more and when you start to pursue it and start mixing in your faith into it, it begins to grow and maybe this little idea will soon begin to change the world.

So what do you have that God could use to further His kingdom? Remember David only had a sling and a few rocks. What talent do you have, that you are hiding for fear someone might find out about and ask you to use it to bring glory to God, now you may think that your talent would never bring God glory, well what if David thought the same way and never went to the battle field.