



secret weapons

Advantage

1 Samuel 17:45-58

In this last sermon, we discuss how David won using his last weapon: Advantage. More than tactical, David's advantage was spiritual. It wasn't necessarily about his technique, but it was his trust in God that gave him the advantage. Every believer knows that he/she has an advantage over spiritual opposition, but very few act on it. We don't need a greater advantage, just a greater awareness of the advantages we do have. Let's recap the sermon:

YOUR ADVANTAGE IS ONLY AS GREAT AS YOUR AWARENESS. David's advantage was more spiritual than tactical, saying, It wasn't necessarily about his technique, but it was his trust in God that gave him the advantage. David wasn't surprised by the presumed disadvantage he had against Goliath. Instead of being caught off-guard by the size and strength advantage Goliath had over him, David recognized it and proceeded to identify his advantage as a slinger. Every believer has an advantage over spiritual opposition, but very few act on it... We don't need a greater advantage, just a greater awareness of the advantages we do have.

STOP SURVIVING WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DEFEAT. When we have an advantage as God's children, we aren't meant to merely survive the Enemy's advances. We're meant to conquer them completely and take hold of the reward God has set aside for us. When David killed Goliath, he didn't just hit him with a rock. Once Goliath fell, he walked up, drew Goliath's sword, and decapitated him. Needless to say, there was no doubt who conquered who in this fight. This stood in stark contrast to the rest of the Israelites, who were stuck in survival mode--all they wanted to do was to avoid dying at the hands of Goliath. David however, used his advantages to decisively defeat him.

THE VERY THING THAT WAS MEANT TO DESTROY YOU MAY BE THE THING GOD USES TO DELIVER YOU. David didn't enter the battle with a sword, but he left with one--Goliath's. The very weapon that was meant to destroy David actually became the force that would conquer his enemy once and for all. God will turn the Enemy's schemes back on his head and work all things for your good (Romans 8:28). Jesus didn't just save you to make it to Heaven. He died so that you could take back territory on Earth. Even when circumstances seem to put us at a disadvantage, God has the ability to work in all things to deliver us.

TODAY'S ATTACK MIGHT JUST BECOME TOMORROW'S ADVANTAGE. Fourteen years after David killed Goliath, David was on a mission, but didn't have any weapons. He came to a priest, Ahimelek, and asked for a weapon. The only weapon Ahimelek had to offer was Goliath's sword (1 Samuel 21:7-10). Perhaps with a smirk and a memory of how God once used this sword to deliver him, David took the sword. In a similar fashion, the very thing that looks like it will take you out today might be the thing God uses to deliver you in the future. Because the children of God eternally have an advantage over the Enemy, we can embrace our attacks and believe that God will deliver us time and time again.

Discussion Guide

1. How do you prepare yourself so that you won't be caught off-guard when circumstances are intimidating? What are you currently up against in your own life? Realistically, what are your disadvantages?
2. What is "survival mode?" How were the Israelites living in it? What made David's approach different? What does it mean to survive what God has called us to conquer? Why is this attitude offensive to God?
3. Take a look at the battles you're currently fighting. What weapons do you still have leftover from your previous battles? What is attacking you today? How can you pray for God to use this for future good?

Prayer Guide

Thank God for the promise of Romans 8:28 and pray it over your group today.