Developing Courage – Message 2

Warm-up

Share a courageous moment in your life. It could be standing up for what was right, sharing the gospel with a stranger, speaking in front of a crowd, or risking your life for someone.

Overview

Last week, we kicked off the *Imperfect* series with David's example of overcoming rejection in his life. Today we examine how David developed the courage to be the man God used to defeat Israel's enemy.

Word and Application

How Big is Your God?

Developing a heart of courage has less to do with what we do in our own ability, and everything to do with how we view our God. When we place man's limitations on God, we get limited results. However, when we gain God's perspective of who He is, we begin to understand that nothing is too great for Him. As our faith in God increases, we develop the courage and boldness to overcome giants.

Read Matthew 19:26, Jeremiah 32:27, 1 Corinthians 2:9, and Ephesians 3:20. What stands out to you as you read these scriptures? Why do you think God placed these verses in the Bible? Identify another scripture verse or promise related to these passages.

David Versus Goliath

In the account of David and Goliath, we observe how David's understanding of God gave him the uncommon courage to face a giant. **Read 1 Samuel 17:1-10**.

Picture in your mind a valley with the army of the Philistines on one side and the army of Israel on the other. The Philistines stand confidently with a taunting giant; while, Israel's soldiers stand quietly paralyzed by fear. Much like Goliath, our adversary Satan uses lies to try to instill insecurities and fear in us. What are some common situations that people face that can bring fear paralysis? How would you encourage people in those situation?

As we learn how to develop the courage to overcome giants in our lives, it's important to first identify the giants we face. We must be aware that personal giants often come in three forms:

1. Addictions where habitual behaviors can hurt us
2. Anxieties that lead to paralyzing fear
3. An Attitude that hinders your relationship with God and others

We can encounter two things when we face the giants in our lives.

1. **Intimidation**
   When we allow the enemy to intimidate us, we can feel stripped and exposed by our weaknesses. More than ever, we need to rely on the Lord to help us in the battle. Do you tend to fight your own battles or are you quick to seek God's help? Explain.

   Read 2 Corinthians 12:9, Isaiah 35:3-4, and Luke 21:15. How do these passages combat intimidation? Can you think of a giant in your life in which you can apply any of these scriptures?

2. **Condemnation**
   Similar to intimidation, condemnation comes from allowing the taunting lies of the enemy to impact us. As Believers, we can be assured that condemnation *never* comes from God. Rather than run *from* God in shame, we run *to* Him, reminded of how Jesus set us free from sin. Our true identity comes from God, not from our giants. Do you find it difficult to overcome condemnation in your life? Share a moment when you used the Word of God to counter lies you may have believed about yourself.

Two Keys to Developing Courage

You were not designed to be taunted and defeated by giants. God created and empowered you to walk in victory over the enemy.

1. **Focus Your Faith**
   Focus on God rather than your circumstances. When you fix your eyes on who God is and what He has done, the size of our giants become irrelevant. **Read 1 Samuel 17:37, Hebrews 11:27, Hebrews 10:39, and Romans 8:24-25.**

2. **Be Willing to Fight**
   Knowing that we serve the Almighty God and we are empowered by His Holy Spirit in us, we must be willing to run to the fight, rather than away from it. We recognize that God had the power, but David had to cooperate by grabbing the stones and entering the fight. **Read 1 Samuel 17:48-50**. What is so significant about the fact that David *ran* toward Goliath?

Life Challenge

What giants are you still facing? Ask God to identify giants in your life that you may not have been aware of. What is the part that God is asking you to do against the giants you are facing? This week take a courageous step toward victory. Maybe it's a phone call, praying the Word of God over your giant, or taking a step of faith toward a new job or a big change.

Prayer

Pray for the specific needs of the group.