



Studies in the Life of David

Text

First Samuel 17:40-58

Topic

David fells Goliath then uses the giant's own sword to cut off his head

Title

"How to Get A Head in Life"

Introduction

I offer you a suggested list of the top five MacGyver inventions of all time:

#5 The Egg White Radiator Repair.

Using egg whites and water, Mac managed to get a car running again by repairing a gash in its radiator. Once he got the water hot in the radiator, he let the egg whites cook in the liquid and it plugged the hole.

#4 The Gum Wrapper Fuse Fix.

He fixed a blown fuse by joining the two contacts with the foil wrapper. Meantime he offered the gum to the gal he was helping.

#3 The Fire Extinguisher Bomb.

MacGyver rigged up an improvised bomb using a fire extinguisher and metal hooks, then launched it out slingshot-style. When the pursuer's ran over the extinguisher with their vehicle, the hooks punctured the canister and exploded.

#2 The Basement Torpedo.

Using sticks, rocks, rags, pipe, and a boiler, he escaped from a basement by making a torpedo that flew through the wall.

#1 The Flying Jeep.

In an airplane he needed to escape from, he rigged a parachute up to a car, drove it out of the back of the plane and landed it safely.

MacGyver always knew he had everything he needed to defeat his enemies.

As a Christian, as a believer in Jesus Christ, I need to know that I have everything I need to defeat my spiritual enemies.

In his book, *Our Sufficiency in Christ*, John MacArthur puts it like this:

Believers have in Christ everything they will ever need to meet any trial, any craving, any difficulty they might encounter in this life. Even the newest convert possesses sufficient resources for every spiritual need. From the moment of salvation each believer is in Christ (2Corinthians 5:17) and Christ is in the believer (Colossians 1:27). The Holy Spirit abides within us as well (Romans 8:9)... **So every Christian is a self-contained treasury of divinely bestowed spiritual affluence.**

In David's encounter with Goliath we have an illustration of this principle of our sufficiency in Jesus Christ to meet and defeat any spiritual foe.

I'll organize my thoughts around two points: #1 Learn To Appreciate That You've Been Given Everything You Need To Defeat The Enemy, and #2 Learn To Appropriately That You've Been Given Everything You Need To Defeat The Enemy.

#1 Learn To Appreciate That You've Been Given Everything You Need To Defeat Your Enemies

(v40-47)

I'm using the word 'appreciate' in the sense of being *fully conscious* of something, to *be aware* of something. We need to be fully conscious and

aware of the biblical fact that, if we are in Jesus Christ, we've been given every resource to defeat our enemies.

I think almost every believer would say, "*Gene, I already know that!*" Yet on a practical level, we don't always fully appreciate our spiritual resources.

We're going to see, in David, the Spirit-led man of God who appreciates that God has fully provided for him to defeat his enemies.

1 Samuel 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

David had been offered, but had rejected, King Saul's armor. David would face-off against Goliath just as he was, as a shepherd, with the equipment and mindset of a shepherd.

David did not need swords and shields and mail coats. He did not need to wait and go through special training to become a soldier. He did not need to watch videos of Goliath's techniques.

God had readied him to face Goliath out in the fields, watching his father's sheep. He would face the enemy just as he was, trusting in God's sufficiency.

You can certainly appreciate God's preparation in David's life. The real question is, *Do you appreciate it in your own life?* You should, you need to, because it is just as true of you facing your enemies as it was of David facing Goliath. God is daily readying you. He is doing it in your everyday encounters, in what you consider common or mundane.

The only prerequisite I can see was David's faithfulness as a shepherd. I mean, what if he had slacked-off in his responsibilities? What if he had let lions and bears make off with the sheep? What if he couldn't hit the broadside of a barn with his sling?

I think you know David was a fantastic shepherd, that he'd win shepherd competitions (if there were such a thing). He was faithful in what seemed like the little things. He did not despise the days of small things.

Faithfulness is achievable for every Christian. It is the ground upon which we must stand in order to appreciate God's resources.

We should stop to discuss the issue of the "five smooth stones." Why five, and not just one, if David was so confident in God's sufficiency?

Here are two speculations:

1. Almost every Bible commentator will point to a passage later in the Bible that indicates Goliath had **four brothers!** He thus had one stone for each potential adversary.
2. Biblical numerologists say that 'five' is the number of man's weakness and, consequently, the need to rely upon God's strength. As natural men we have five fingers, five toes, and five senses. God's strength can be revealed through our natural weakness as we rely on Him.

One more quick thought about the stones. David must have stooped, even knelt, beside the brook to choose the stones. It's a picture of our coming to the living water of the Holy Spirit for our supply. As David looked into the clear, running water, a stone would come into focus. So too with us the Holy Spirit brings Jesus to 'focus' as we seek Him in God's Word.

1 Samuel 17:41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.

1 Samuel 17:42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

1 Samuel 17:43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

1 Samuel 17:44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

Youth is never an issue with God:

- Miriam was very young when she helped Pharaoh's daughter save her brother, Moses, from the Nile.

- Jeremiah was a youth when he was called to prophesy.
- Samuel, whose name is on these two books, was called by God as a very young child.

One of the things I am most proud of in our work here at Calvary Hanford is the raising-up and training of young men to do the work of the ministry.

It's noted that David was "ruddy and good-looking." Doesn't mean you have to be attractive to serve the Lord! It means he wasn't battle-scarred, as Goliath undoubtedly was. He didn't have experience fighting men but he was a world-class seeker of God.

The first century disciples were once described by their adversaries as uneducated men who had been with Jesus. May it ever be so!

David next appreciated his superior supernatural arsenal.

1 Samuel 17:45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

Goliath was like a walking tank. Robo-Philistine. Plus he had a shield-bearer who undoubtedly carried additional weapons.

Compare his excellent but man-made weapons to David's spiritual arsenal. David had the "name of the Lord of hosts." "Name" equals *authority*. He was authorized to act on behalf of the heavenly hosts at the Lord's disposal. David knew there was a supernatural realm surrounding us, one which if revealed would show multitudes of God's created angels standing ready to carry out His will.

You must always appreciate that your struggles are not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual powers. The battle is won behind the scenes, using spiritual weapons that are mighty.

David also mentioned "the God of the armies of Israel." True, the Israeli army seemed to be faltering, refusing to engage the enemy. Nevertheless

Israel was God's elect nation and that meant His promises to them could not fail.

The church might seem to be faltering, falling short. Jesus nevertheless promised that the gates of Hell would not prevail against it. If we think the church at large is faltering, the goal isn't to rally the troops, but to have personal revival.

David's next statement is insightful.

1 Samuel 17:46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

David outlined *exactly* what was going to occur. Because it is so specific I say it was a prophecy. God told David what He was going to do.

We must appreciate that God is always speaking to us, that God has a leading for us. He does it in many wonderful ways, not the least of which today is through His written Word.

1 Samuel 17:47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

David appreciated his role as a man who revealed the strength and the glory of God. His only desire was that, at the end of the day, God would be magnified by his actions. He made no mention of his own involvement. He spoke of "our hands," not "my hands."

We have a lot to appreciate, to be fully conscious and aware of, as believers in Jesus Christ. As we quoted earlier, "every Christian is a self-contained treasury of divinely bestowed spiritual affluence."

Here are some ways our sufficiency in Jesus is declared in the New Testament:

2 Peter 1:3 ... His divine power has given to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

Colossians 2:10 and you are **complete** in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ,

John 1:16 And of His **fullness** we have all received, and grace for grace.

What is it you need today? Wisdom? Joy? Peace? Comfort? Hope? Love?

They are yours already if you will appreciate what Jesus Christ has accomplished for you on the Cross at Calvary.

#2 Learn To Appreciate That You've Been Given Everything You Need To Defeat Your Enemies (v48-58)

It's one thing, one very important thing, to appreciate your spiritual resources. It's another thing to *appropriate* them and put them into action. All David's talk aside, he still had to face the giant in battle. It was a 'put your walk where your talk is' situation.

1 Samuel 17:48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

David didn't just 'walk the walk,' *he ran!* Wouldn't you like to be described as running with the Lord?

You never know when your pace will need to change from its regular walk to a jog or a full-on sprint. You need to be ready to run. We are exhorted by the writer to the Hebrew Christians to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and... run with endurance the race that is set before us..." (Hebrews 12:1).

1 Samuel 17:49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

You'd have been disappointed if you were watching this on pay-per-view. It was like Muhammad Ali's phantom punch to Sonny Liston. Less than two minutes into the fight, Ali hit Liston with a quick punch which didn't seem to have much on it. Liston went down and the rest is history.

The sling has been recognized throughout history as a deadly weapon. In the Bible, in the Book of Judges, you read about "seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss" (20:16).

The sling is still utilized for hunting small game. If my research is accurate, the Guinness World Record for distance from a sling is 477 meters. The velocity of an object shot from a sling has been calculated at 160 feet-per-second, or 110 miles-per-hour.

In David's use of the sling and stone I see a combination of natural skill and the supernatural. David had the skill to hit the forehead from a distance while running. Upon impact the "stone sank into [Goliath's] forehead." That was God's touch!

God chose to use David's skill. We should hone every skill, enhance every ability, then offer it to God to use as He sees fit.

1 Samuel 17:50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

Remember the prophecy? Goliath was to be decapitated.

Following through is an important part of appropriating victory. When the Israelites went in to conquer the Promised Land, they sometimes chose to enslave some of their enemies after they defeated them. They ought to have followed through and killed them because, years later, those enemies grew strong again and caused them problems.

Is there some area where you have gained some ground but failed to follow through? Follow through today, finish it, before your Goliath gets back up.

1 Samuel 17:51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

What happened to Goliath's shield bearer? He was every bit as seasoned a fighter as Goliath. He must have turned tail and ran. All the Philistines "fled." Goliath promised they would surrender and serve Israel if anyone defeated him but the Philistines reneged.

Regardless your victory over them, your enemies will regroup to come at you another way, another day. As long as we are in these bodies of flesh we will have the world, the flesh, and the devil to contend with. We have every resource to walk in victory but our ultimate triumph won't come until we are with the Lord.

Emboldened by David's victory, the armies of Israel finally engaged.

1 Samuel 17:52 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.

1 Samuel 17:53 Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

They all appropriated what David had won for them. If you really want to help people, walk in the Spirit. Those you love will then enjoy the "plunder" of your victories.

1 Samuel 17:54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

Even today fighting men acknowledge their victories in one way or another. Nothing wrong with looking back on past victories as long as it doesn't keep you from going forward. We cannot afford to rest on the past.

1 Samuel 17:55 When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

1 Samuel 17:56 So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is."

1 Samuel 17:57 Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

1 Samuel 17:58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

Commentators get concerned since Saul didn't seem to know who David was. Notice, though, Saul didn't ask who David was. He asked who his "father" was. Could be he wanted to properly honor David. After all, this was a tribal nation so families were super-important.

David's family didn't think much of him but they would be honored by the king on account of him. There are promises in God's Word that if you walk with the Lord, your family will reap the benefits:

- First Corinthians chapter seven comes to mind, where believers are encouraged to stay married to their nonbelieving spouses thereby sanctifying the home.
- In First Peter chapter three the wives of nonbelieving husbands are told they can win their husbands without a word by their proper conduct in the home.

If you really want someone to change, then appropriate all God's spiritual blessings in your own walk.

Mexican tycoon Carlos Helu has beaten out Americans Bill Gates and Warren Buffett to become the wealthiest person on earth and nab the top spot on the 2010 *Forbes* list of the world's billionaires. He has an estimated worth of \$53.5 billion.

We look at a guy like that and we can see the kind of seemingly unlimited resources he has. We see the houses and cars and yachts and such.

Well, you and I are far richer in spiritual resources. Mercy and grace are ours in super-abundance, as are every other things necessary for life and godliness.

Your 'Goliath's' were designed by God to get you to draw from His abundance in your time of confrontation. Appreciate & appropriate.

