

Mistakes of A Giant **I Samuel 17:1-11**

Introduction:

- A. Do you know the story about the giant in the Bible? Most people probably immediately think about Goliath. And while, Goliath was a giant, he is not the only giant in the Bible or even in the story of David and Goliath.
- B. The nation of Israel had their own giant named Saul. While he was certainly not as tall as Goliath, he was still taller than any other person in all of Israel (I Sam. 9:2; 10:23).
- C. Unfortunately, we never think about Saul being a giant because when it came time for Israel to do battle with Goliath, it wasn't their giant, but a little shepherd boy who went into battle.
- D. Let's notice three mistakes Israel's giant made when he encountered the Philistine giant.

Saul Allowed Fear to Cripple His Faith.

- A. Goliath was a warrior who looked very intimidating. He was tall, strong and a champion (vs. 4-8).
- B. Saul and all of Israel were afraid of Goliath. When he would come out and taunt Israel, the men of Israel would turn and run (vs. 8-11, 24).
- C. We will all face fears in our lives but we must never allow those fears to cripple our faith (Jn. 16:33; I Pet. 4:12). We must learn to trust God (Psa. 20:7; Isa. 12:2).

Saul Focused on the Obstacles Instead of the Opportunities.

- A. Goliath came out and taunted Israel twice a day for forty days and Saul did nothing (vs. 10, 16).
- B. Instead of seeing obstacles, we ought to see opportunities for God to work (Phil. 1:12-14).
- C. We serve a God who can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20-21).

Saul Forgot About God's Past Goodness.

- A. Saul had forgotten about all God had done for Israel in the past (vs. 31-37; Exo. 12; 14; 16; 17).
- B. Saul has a lot in common with the 10 spies who said Israel couldn't take the land (Num. 13:27-33).
- C. We sometimes suffer from spiritual amnesia because of fear. We need to recount all the wonderful deeds of God (Psa. 9:1).

Conclusion:

- A. The story of David and Goliath is about more than one giant. While the Philistine's had their giant, so did the nation of Israel. Unfortunately, Israel's giant made several mistakes and missed out on some great opportunities.
- B. When trials and tribulations come, how will we respond?
- C. May we learn from King Saul and guard our hearts so we do not make the same mistakes he made.