

David v. Goliath 2026

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, May 17, 2026

OFFERING(S)

NOTE 1 – Today is the third Sunday of the month. On the third Sunday of each month we will collect two offerings.

- 1) The 1st (**B**) goes to the regular support of this body and its ministry. We cannot exist apart from your support.
- 2) The 2nd (**R**) offering will go toward our missionaries. They cannot exist apart or without our ongoing support.

NOTE 2 – I want to call forth the ushers to collect the first of two offerings today. Let us worship by giving together.

Q. Ruth, is there anything you would like to share?

NOTE 3 – I want to call forth the ushers to collect the second of two offerings. Let us advance the gospel together.

C.E.

KEY – It is now time to dismiss our Nursery (0–6), Children’s Church (ages 6–12) and the corresponding workers.

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INTRODUCTION

KEY – Thank you for joining us! Whether you are here in person or via the livestream you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time.

SETTING THE STAGE

KEY – I want to offer standalone sermon based on one of the most timeless yet timely accounts: David v. Goliath.

NOTE 1 – I would ask that you please turn to 1 Samuel 17 as I set the stage a bit for our coverage of this scene.

NOTE 2 – There are many filters through which we might consider the story of David v. Goliath (1 Sam. 17). Today I would like to consider the scene through the lens of facing and overcoming opposition or obstacle. How many of you realize that in the course of life and living you will face oppositional forces and/or obstacles?

NOTE 3 – Will ours look the same as Goliath per se? I certainly hope not, and for each of us they might vary! Yet we do well to discern how David secured victory over Goliath, that we might know success as we engage antagonizing forces and events. So let us all consider the masterclass David offers on overcoming unto victory.

1. PERCEPTION OF THE PROBLEM

KEY – Let us begin by noting that David first perceived or identified a problem that needed to be addressed.

Q. What problem? What problem or issue did Israel face?

1 Samuel 17:1–10, 16 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

1 Now the **Philistines** gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

4 A champion named **Goliath**, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span [9ft. and 9in.]. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels [125 lbs.]; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels [15 lbs.]. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” 10 Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” . . . 16 For **forty days** the Philistine came forward **every morning and evening** and took his stand.

1 Samuel 17:21–23 (Emphasis Mine)

21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies [FYI – he was bringing provisions for his brothers at the behest of his father, Jesse], ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion [of] Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David **heard** it.

NOTE – Herein David first perceives the problem of Goliath and the horde of Philistines Goliath represented. He had gone from a place of ignorance to a place where he was cognizant of a problem that needed remedy. In this sense, David is not unique, for the entire army of Israel—led by King Saul—was aware of this problem. What separated David from the men was not mere identification of the problem alone, but what comes next!

2. REFUSAL TO LIVE WITH THE PROBLEM

KEY – David, unlike the rest of the army of Israel—including king Saul—refused to simply live with the problem.

NOTE 1 – Consider that the men of Israel—in a spirit of cowardice—were quite content to tolerate this Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:16 (Emphasis Mine)

16 For **forty days** the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

Q. How long would the men have allowed the issue to linger? Why not contend with the problem of Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:11 (Emphasis Mine)

11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were **dismayed** and **terrified**.

1 Samuel 17:24 (Emphasis Mine)

24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all **fled** from him in **great fear**.

NOTE 2 – Yet not David! Unlike those who endured Goliath, David demonstrated courage and sought remedy.

1 Samuel 17:25–27, 31–32 (Emphasis Mine)

25 Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” 27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him. 32 David said to Saul, **“Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”**

NOTE 3 – Those who would overcome in the course of life and living do well to consider these opening points. If you are to overcome adversity, obstacle and challenge, you must first rightly recognize the problem and reach a place where you are willing to stand against it (i.e., in a spirit of great courage and bravery). Is it not amazing the issues people will live with and not even see? Is it not amazing the issues people see and yet choose to live with? No! Those who would overcome must follow the example of David and act in kind.

3. REFUSAL TO HEED DISSUADING VOICES

KEY – As we delve deeper into the text, consider that David refused to heed what we will call dissuading voices.

Q. Do you realize that no one deemed David capable of standing against Goliath (let alone secure victory)?

NOTE 1 – Can we take a moment to note the input of the brothers of David? Let us assess the following text(s):

1 Samuel 17:12–30 (Emphasis Mine)

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul’s time he was very old. 13 Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

17 Now Jesse said to his son David, “Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.” 20 Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. 24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

25 Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.” 26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” 27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

28 When Eliab, **David’s oldest brother**, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

29 “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.

NOTE 2 – What of Saul? Did the king of Israel evidence any faith in the ability of young David against Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:32–33 (Emphasis Mine)

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.” 33 Saul replied, “You are **not** able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are **only** a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

NOTE 3 – Yet did this dissuade David? In no way(s)! Rather, he evidenced a boldness in facing his obstacle, Goliath (i.e., even if it meant facing him alone). Those who would overcome must follow his grand example. Perhaps you are surrounded by dissenting voices, calling you to inaction or cowardice. Careful whom you heed!

4. RELIANCE UPON PAST VICTORY AND ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE

KEY – Consider that David was willing to confront Goliath (alone) based on past victory and acc. experience(s).

1 Samuel 17:32–37a (Emphasis Mine)

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a **lion** or a **bear** came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.**”

NOTE – Consider that David was also careful to resist input contrary to his past victories and experiences. Note:

1 Samuel 17:37b–40 (Emphasis Mine)

37 . . . Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, **because he was not used to them.** “I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “**because I am not used to them.**” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose **five smooth stones** from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, **with his sling in his hand**, approached the Philistine.

Q. David was quick to rely upon God based upon past victories and accumulated skill in Him. What of us all?

Q. Could it be that all that you’ve endured thus far in Christ has been preparatory for your current obstacle?

5. POSSESSION OF HUMBLE FAITH

KEY – What fueled David’s success beyond accumulated skill and past experience? He possessed humble faith!

Q. Was this not evidenced prior to confrontation with Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:33–37 (Emphasis Mine)

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, **because he has defied the armies of the living God.** **37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.**”

Q. Was this not evidenced amid the confrontation with Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:41–46a (Emphasis Mine)

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, **but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.** 46 **This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands,** and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals . . .

Q. To what degree is your life characterized by such [any] faith? How is it evidenced and expressed in living?

NOTE – The remainder of this text provides the sixth and final precept that we can glean from David v. Goliath:

6. CONSUMED BY THE GLORY OF GOD

1 Samuel 17:46b–47 (Emphasis Mine)

46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, **and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.** 47 **All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”**

KEY – David was ultimately not motivated by personal pride or the desire for renown, but for the glory of God!

Q. Is this not evidenced through the entire passage? Was such not evidenced when David first heard Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:26, 36 (Emphasis Mine)

26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this **disgrace** from Israel? **Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?**” . . . [to Saul] 36 “Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, **because he has defied the armies of the living God.”**

NOTE – David was consumed with the Name, renown and reputation of God in Israel and among the nations. Motivated by the desire to honor the Name of the Lord, David was able to secure ultimate victory. Let us note:

1 Samuel 17:48–53

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. 51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. 53 When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

Q. To what degree is your life characterized by such a sacred motivation? Why do you desire victory in life?

SUMMATIONS

Q. What can we glean from young David (i.e., as it relates to facing and overcoming opposition or obstacle)?

KEY – Those who would overcome hindering forces in life must: **a)** properly or rightly identify the problem; **b)** refuse to live with the problem and take action against; **c)** refuse to heed dissenting or dissuading voices; **d)** draw upon past victories and accumulated skills; **e)** operate in humble faith; and **f)** live for the glory of God.

CONCLUSION

NOTE 1 – I would call you to worship the Lord through financial giving. Please feel free to give online or in person.

NOTE 2 – Check out our church website for upcoming events and beyond (www.NewLifeBarre.org). Join in too.

NOTE 3 – Would you join us for town Memorial Day Observances on Monday, May 25. Let us honor the fallen.

NOTE 4 – Reminder that Potluck Supper is always the final Sunday of the month. Thus, it is May 31, this month.

2 Corinthians 13:14

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.