

're-thinking' some of the parables ... No.16

THE PARABLE OF DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17

The scene is set in *the Valley of Elah*. There is a war on between the Philistine army and God's army which pictures for us natural, carnal thinking of man versus the mind of Christ. God's army was led by King Saul who represents 'Pentecost' and it turned that made no difference at all for every one was gripped by fear. The focus changes ... Goliath, the spirit of natural man was challenging the religious spirit of the Church with 'winner take all!' Oh help! What should have been a 'walkover' for God's people, turned out to be a paralysing situation all because the army of God did not know Who was with them, Who was (in our case) in them. No confidence in their God because they either forgot or never knew what their God was really like. Whenever that happens among God's called-out ones today, the result is the same, nothing!

The Valley of Elah was the low place (like gravity) where man usually looks for his security. Elah means 'OAK' which pictures for us what has been strong and has endured for years and become very dependable for its always been like this. Carnal man and the religious systems manifest a stalemate because both reckon they are on higher ground when in fact they are at the same level.

Carnal minded Goliath decided to challenge the letter-word religious world — but there were no 'takers'! *Goliath* means AN EXILE OR SOOTHSAYER. Oh yes, the carnal mind has been long exiled from the life of God and Goliath also means a soothsayer who is one who predicts the future (right or wrong) for he will logically work out what will happen. This sincere logical giant came from Gath which means WINEPRESS or FORTUNE which made up the two areas to improve one's station in life.

Further insight to Goliath's character was shown by the armour he wore. His head-thinking was protected by a helmet of brass. Brass speaks of 'judgment' so we see his thinking constantly judging everyone and everything. This brazen attitude covered his heart, his legs and also between his shoulders for he knew of many who would backstab him at the drop of a hat. He had another to carry his shield . . . someone or something to hide behind — like quoting what so-and-so said!

This giant was a champion and he was thought of as important and indispensable by all Philistine thinkers. Pride was prevalent with this Goliath and pride made him quite arrogant — seen every time he belittled another. His whole logic and expression came from the **brain** of Goliath for his **heart** was hardened ... thus he was heartless ... he couldn't follow his heart!

Right on time David arrives on the scene and this anointed man hears of the reward for the man who will take down this ten foot giant. 'Do it for us', says the leader of this band of scared unbelieving believers! David stood tall so Saul thought to offer his armour. If David had been short, Saul was wise enough not to even think of offering his armour. However Saul's testimony didn't line up with David's and he knew that he didn't really need man's protection for God was with him.

This 'overcomer' hadn't been around very long for David was but a youth and inexperienced in the old ways of fighting. All David knew was what worked for him. A simple sling that could place the right word of faith right where it was needed. David knew his God and thus had previously overcome the roaring flesh-eating lion and the bear that would squeeze the spiritual reality out of people if given half a chance.

David took his staff which pictures for us his relationship with the Lord and went to the b(r)ook of life and selected five smooth stones. Notice he didn't just pick any old scripture but five (grace) that had been well prepared by the water of life flowing constantly over them.

David moved from his heart in this matter for it was there that he heard the voice of God. Had he moved from his mind-cum-brain, he would have reasoned that the situation was hopeless and he would have been on his way home! The older Church brethren did not like being shown up by a newcomer to the fray. However eventually, Pastor Saul the illustrious leader, blessed David while not holding out much hope. Oh how the natural mind will capitulate before what looks like insurmountable odds!

Goliath now ridicules David and wants everyone to know what a pathetic picture he looked. Well, in the natural he did . . . a lanky youth taking on an experienced champion fighter of huge proportions! God saw it differently. Goliath didn't realize that mocking God's true called-out servant was the same as mocking God. Goliath curses David and David blesses God, the Lord of Hosts . . . quite a contrast! Jehovah-Sabaoth aspect of God had all armies under His control . . . on earth and in heaven and *can work all things together for good* with 100% success. How long will it take the Goliath attitude in us to realize that God is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient?

As Goliath approached the man of God, he couldn't really believe what he was seeing. Over confident he let down his guard as he just stood there amazed, he pushed back his helmet exposing his forehead just a little. Every action we make will expose the source of our action . . . whether it be carnal or anointed.

David selects one God-appointed word, places it in his sling and lets it fly. Accuracy was his forté and the three inches of Goliath's brainbox in view was all he needed to score a bull's-eye! Knocked unconscious and stunned Goliath fell to the earth amidst the gasps of fear from the Philistine camp. David moves quickly as the former shield-bearer led the Philistine retreat. David takes Goliath's own sword and separates Goliath from his carnal thinking, arrogance and cursing ability. The sword speaks of the words we speak. Here the very words that Goliath had sown he reaped for *death and life are in the power of the tongue*. David didn't even have to quote one scripture or speak 'christianese' to the situation! He demonstrated that the carnal minded man is all 'hot air'. We too need to come to the place where our carnal thinking is under our feet.

This anointed act, which should come from our day to day walk, raised the faith in God's army. They were no longer scared for one had shown forth the victory which God gave. The victory of Jesus Christ at Calvary should likewise encourage each one of us to stand up to all expressions originating from the carnal mind whether it be in us or in others.

The decapitated head of Goliath was taken to Jerusalem and placed in a certain spot which later was called *Golgotha . . . the place of the skull . . .* which is symbolic of how Jesus overcame the carnal mind thinking of fallen, unregenerate man which was caused by wrong choices. Remember a skull is an 'empty head'! The effect of Calvary, the cross, is that all wrong thinking can be put to death so that the Christ-Life of the Living Word can be fully heard and expressed.

David was a man after God's own heart — he thus moved from his heart for it is *out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. My sheep hear my voice*, said Jesus.

Later David did collect his reward for he married Saul's daughter, Michal. He joined himself to that 'system' but could not bring forth new life. Beloved, be warned! §