

“David; Five Smooth Stones”

INTRODUCTION:

1 Samuel 17:40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

David is one of the most recognizable characters of the Old Testament. Perhaps the most well known story of his life is the battle with Goliath. It is so notable that it's influence has even made an impact on the secular world inspiring the “little guy” to achieve great things. Tonight, we will consider the life of David through the lens of this event. Our goal will be to not only demonstrate those Godly characteristics that David developed in his life but to show us how they can be put into practical use in our lives as we strive to grow in grace and godliness and overcome evil with good.

As David made his way toward Goliath he stooped down in the brook and chose five smooth stones for his weapon. We may ask, why did David pick up five stones for a job that only required one? Perhaps, as some have suggested, they were for Goliath's brothers. However, the simpler answer is that David came prepared. As the children of God, we must come to the battle prepared. We are instructed in the scriptures to be spiritually well rounded. Tonight we will use this illustration as we consider five Godly characteristics that David possessed and which every Christian should strive to develop if we are to overcome the giants in our path.

I. Communion with God-Stone #1

- A. As a young man, David spent a lot of time shepherding in his father's fields. This time provided David an opportunity for solitude and reflection. It was time alone with God, free from distraction. This may seem to have been a very lonely experience, however, we can clearly see for David it was a time of close communion with God, a time of reflection and of growth.

Psalms 23:1-3 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul:

Invaluable lessons were learned in the fields. David learned what it meant to care for the flock, how to lead, what it meant to follow. He learned how to protect those he cared for and how to stand up against his adversaries.

1 Samuel 17:34-36 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: **35** And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. **36** Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

- B. Oh Christian, there is a valuable lesson in this for us today. How little solitude we have in our noisy world and how greatly it interrupts our communion with God. There are so many opportunities for distraction and so few for quietness. Yet stillness is what we need. It is here we rediscover God and commune with Him. It is here we find rest for our weariness and strength for our journey. As Elijah fled to Horeb, let our prayer be that God will lead us to the “rock that is higher than I” where we may hide ourselves from the distractions of this world and He will answer our cry in that “still small voice”.

Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

David would not remain in his father's fields forever. The day came when God's plans for David's life would call him away. However, the lessons learned here would remain with him all the days of his life. They were as one of those smooth stones that he picked up and placed in his shepherds bag.

II. Courage- Stone #2

- A. David displayed remarkable courage in the battle with Goliath. When all men stood in fear, David stood up to the challenge of the Giant. Goliath stood in defiance of God and his people and David would not allow this opposition to go unchallenged. Though he may have been the least of all the men in stature he was the strongest in faith. David's courage did not come from within, it came from above.

1 Samuel 17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

Psalms 121:1-2 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

- B. Christianity is under constant attack in today's world. Our beliefs, values, and way of life have all been challenged. As Christians, we need godly courage to stand up to the challenges of our adversary. Intimidation was the tactic of Goliath, it was alarmingly effective then and still is today. Even when the strength of all those

around us fails may God give us the courage to stand up for Jesus. We have not been given the spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Notice, David did not go looking for a fight, he simply responded to a challenge. We do not need to seek out opportunities to stand up for the Lord, they will meet us many times along our journey. Let us be as David and have this smooth stone of courage by our side, ready to put to use when the challenges come.

III. Worship- Stone #3

- A. Worship was a defining characteristic of King David. He is referred to as the “sweet psalmist of Israel” and is credited with writing most of the Psalms. David understood the value of worship.

Psalms 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalms 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

David spent much of his time engaged in conflicts. This made worship all the sweeter to him as it provided a means of escape from the bloodshed and a place where he could be at rest. Worship was both private and public in the Life of David as it should be in ours. It was expressed in prayer, song, dance, praise and testimony.

Psalms 116:12, 17-18 What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?...17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. 18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people

Without worship we are weak and become easily overwhelmed by the burdens of life.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 61:2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

- B. Worship is a heavenly activity. When we worship God in “spirit and in truth” we are elevated above the burdens of this present world that so easily discourage us. Worship draws us into the presence of God where there is fullness of joy. When the toil of daily life has drained us of nearly all our strength, worship is the means by which we plug into God and recharge our spiritual resolve. Worship was a smooth

stone that David always carried by his side, whether in the wilderness or in the Holy City. May we too carry this stone with us on our journey.

IV. Repentance-Stone #4

- A. For all the good things that we have said thus far of David it is important to note that he was by no means perfect. The sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the resulting murder of Uriah in an attempt to cover up this sin left a stain upon the life of David that would not be fully removed. However, you can learn a lot about the character of an individual by how they respond to failure and sin. David was no exception. The meeting with Nathan and the resulting confession of sin and repentance not only tell us much about this man but they serve as an example of repentance for us all.

2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

Psalms 51:1-3 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

- B. One of the hardest things for us to do is to admit our failures. However, our sin separates us from God. It separates us from the strength we draw from Him, from the peace we have in Him. The longer we stay separated from Him the weaker we become. Most men in positions of power such as David have a difficult time admitting fault and repenting. If David could, so can we. Confession and repentance are the surest path to Godliness and become a smooth stone in the hand of the Christian.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

V. Man after God's Own Heart- Stone#5

- A. It should be the aspiration of all of us to be worthy of such a statement. It speaks of David's conformity to God's will. It expresses a oneness that David had with God. What God loved, David loved. What God desired, David desired. It is the embodiment of a New Testament teaching in an Old Testament saint; the crucified life.

Acts 13:22 ...he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Colossians 3:9-10 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

- B. The more that we learn of Christ, the plan and purpose of redemption, the more clearly we see that the end goal is total conformity to His image. To be conformed to Christ is the high calling of God and should be the aim of each Christian. Our affection must be for those things which are above, not below.

Philippians 3:8-10 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

CONCLUSION:

Stones in a creek bed are not naturally round or smooth. Gradually, as the current carries them downstream they are made smooth. On this journey they collide and rub with other rocks, the creek bed, abrasive sand and even the water itself. Over time, the rocks which began rough are made smooth. Godly characteristics are developed in a similar fashion. They start out rough and unrefined. Over the course of time, through adversity and experience, both good and bad, they develop into smooth stones, ready for the master's use, able to take down giants.

So what are these Giants in our lives? They come in many forms. The demands of providing, sickness, loss of loved ones, sin, societal pressures to conform to the current cultural climate. Each of these challenges will need a particular stone or Godly characteristic to be overcome. The Holy Spirit will guide us in which one to use in each circumstance. Our job is to gather these stones in preparation for the giants we know will come.

May God give us the courage to face the challenges of our adversary and not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.