



Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

The OLD TESTAMENT- Their Story is Our Story
David and Goliath-1 Samuel 16 and 17

David, the eighth son of Jesse, was anointed by Samuel as God wished. David was a shepherd, a man skilled in the protection of his flocks, even from wild lions and bears.

The Philistines were at war with the Israelites. At one such skirmish, a champion warrior, Goliath, challenged the Israelites to send one warrior to fight with him. No one stepped forward. Goliath was dressed impressively in all bronze, possessing the best weapons. He taunted the Israelites for 40 days and insulted them and their God. Three of David's older brothers were fighting with the Israelites and David was sent to bring them food and bring home news of the war. When he heard the insults of Goliath, he was angered that this heathen would so insult his God and offered to be the warrior to go and fight him. Saul reluctantly agreed and dressed David in his own helmet and coat of mail, but David had trouble walking with all of this armor on and took it off. Saul doubted that David, a mere boy with no armor or skills as a warrior, could defeat this giant of a man. David went to meet this warrior with his sling shot and five smooth stones. David told them that the God Who protected him from the claw of the lion and bear will protect him from this Philistine. Goliath taunted David as he walked toward him. David ran at Goliath and shot one of his stones, embedding it in the forehead of his adversary, knocking him out. He then took Goliath's own sword and cut off his head.

The world at that time felt that a soldier was to face the enemy with armor, strength, and fancy weapons. The Israelite soldiers would not step forward to fight because they did not possess all of the "protection" that the world thought they should have. This also included Saul. David was a very different kind of soldier, one who was not afraid to face the enemy differently, with vulnerability, with the skills that God had given him and the knowledge that God would be with him. God was with David. David felt it in his very being. David had felt God's protection from wild animals and was confident that God would also protect him from Goliath.

Brené Brown, Ph.D., a researcher at the University of Houston, say, "Vulnerability is not about winning. It's not about losing. It's having the courage to show up when you can't control the outcome." Being vulnerable is brave. It takes courage. It takes the knowledge that you have everything you need to accomplish the task God has put before you.

We are not expected to slay giants with a slingshot. However, God has given each of us special gifts and talents and expects that we will be brave enough, even when we feel vulnerable, to use those gifts to accomplish what He asks us to do.

Think of one thing that God is asking of you that requires some bravery, some vulnerability to accomplish. Ask God for the faith to know you have everything you need from Him.