

TEXT: 1 Samuel 17:38-50

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. 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, 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." 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 facedown 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.

Luke 9:28-36:

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

Dear Friends in Christ, our Transfigured King,

So what Goliath are you facing right now in your life? Are you contending with a bully at school? Are you contending with a boss at work who makes your job challenging? Maybe you're dealing with an abusive spouse or an obstinate child or teenager? Is your Goliath a staggering debt that threatens your future? Or maybe it's a serious health issue which will change your future dramatically? What Goliath are you facing now? One Goliath that we will all face some day, unless our Lord returns before that day for judgement, is death. But before these different Goliaths make you cower in fear like the Israelites, take comfort in the news that we have an anointed King fighting for us. He is the great David, the Son of David, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Yes, **Jesus, our anointed King fights our Goliaths.** Like young David of old he is victorious over them all for us, for our blessing.

Recently, in our Wednesday evening Bible Class at 7:00, we've been studying the books of Samuel. Those books tell us about the reigns of Israel's first two kings, Saul and David. Both were anointed to be King in Israel by the prophet Samuel. Unfortunately, sinful pride led to Saul's downfall. God took the kingship away from Saul and gave it to a young shepherd by the name of David, son of Jesse, from the village of Bethlehem. David was faithful to God, although imperfect. God made a special promise to David. He promised him that a greater king would some day come from his family who would reign forever. That was the promise of the Messiah. (See 2 Samuel 7:11-16)

To prepare for my Wednesday evening Bible classes on the reign of David I read a book written by Pastor Robert Koester and recently published by NPH entitled *Agents of grace*. The book is a study on the life of David. Pastor Koester approached this history with the theme that God used many people to mold David into the man

and leader that he came to be. He focused especially on those people in David's life who were agents of grace. Each chapter helps us see and reflect on those God has used in our lives to serve us as agents of grace and how God may also be using us to serve as agents of grace in other people's lives.

In his book he tells us about David's role in God's plan of salvation. "David was to be a type or picture of the Savior, who would come from his life." In a sense David was a living prophecy of the coming Savior. When the people thought of the coming Messiah, they merely had to look at David to learn what the Messiah would be like.

In our Old Testament text today David modeled a warrior's spirit—the same Spirit Jesus displayed as he battled against Satan and established God's Kingdom. David displayed the spirit of a prophet whose words centered on God's promised Savior—the same Spirit displayed when Jesus said to the people at the synagogue in Nazareth, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18,19). David displayed the spirit of a priest who truly understood the meaning of the Mosaic Law—the same Spirit Jesus had when he explained to the people of his day that God desired mercy and not sacrifice" (Matthew 12:7) and that God's house was a "house of prayer" and not a marketplace" (Matthew 21:13). David's life was a picture of the future promised Messiah. Just as David served in the roles of anointed prophet, priest and King, so also did Jesus.

In our Old Testament lesson David shows himself to be one carrying out the role of a king already before he actually sat on the throne of Israel. What was that role? When Samuel caught sight of Saul for the first time the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people" (1 Samuel 9:17). Among other things that governance included protection. The Israelites wanted a king to govern them. 1 Samuel 8:20 tells us why. "We will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." That is what Saul and David did. They ruled and protected the people from their enemies like the Philistines. David was protecting Israel already as a king when he fought Goliath. Remember David is a type, that is, a picture of Christ. Like David, Jesus is our anointed King who rules us as the Head of the Church and protects us from our enemies.

As David was victorious over Goliath, Jesus is victorious over all of our enemies, all of our Goliaths. The greatest enemy of all is sin and death. Paul wrote, "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:56,57). Jesus crushed the head of Satan as God promised in Genesis 3:15. The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote, "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14). Jesus was victorious over Satan, sin and the wages of sin, death, because with his death he earned forgiveness for sinners. God declared us forgiven; we are justified by grace because Jesus' death was an all-atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. We know that this is absolutely true because Jesus rose from the dead. God exalted Jesus for completing his will and carrying out the plan of salvation. Paul wrote, "For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life, so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. Yes, today Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father ruling the world with all power and authority. He uses that governing power and authority to help his church of believers. He governs and rules in our lives so that we will be protected and delivered from our Goliaths when they challenge us.

All we have to do is listen to him as David did and we can be confident of his protective care! Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world....I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:36,37). When we listen to Jesus we show that we are a part of his Kingdom and he is ruling within our heart (Luke 17:21).

So how does Jesus being our anointed King apply to Transfiguration day, what happened there on the mountain? Think of David. Remember how he prepared for battle with Goliath, Saul tried to give him his coat of armor. David didn't use it but instead trusting in his Lord chose to take just his sling and a few stones. On the mount of transfiguration, Jesus was being prepared for battle by Moses and Elijah, the Bible tells us, "They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem." They talked to Jesus about his upcoming suffering, death and resurrection.

Put yourselves into their shoes? What would you have said to Jesus? Maybe they said something similar to what I said to Chris yesterday at Cleveland clinic. Chris is dying of cancer. Her husband, Carmen, told me Friday that she only has days to live. Death is necessary. It's the consequence of our sin. But physical death is how we have eternal salvation. Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:1-3). Jesus will not forsake you, Chris. Jesus will not forsake any of us as we fight Goliath. He showed that in David's life. We see that in Jesus' life too; Jesus was victorious over death! Perhaps that is what Elijah and Moses reminded Jesus of that day. God is faithful to his promise, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5)!

So whatever Goliath is challenging you right now, go into battle with confidence and courage. Trust in Jesus. He is in control of all including the battles with our Goliaths. He will control the outcome in such a way that it will work out for

your good no matter what the result is. That's his promise! Listen to him! He is our anointed King who governs and protects us with all authority in heaven and earth. Amen.