

David and Goliath: Very, Very Different People!!
– What Was the Most Important Difference? –
or
How to Win the Most Important Battles of Life

Scripture 1 Samuel 17:1-58

Today's Study *How well do I understand the differences between me and other people?*

➤ **What Happened? David Defeats Goliath.** [17:1-54]

- The Philistines Invade Israel, and Prepare to Attack Israel's Army.
Armies Gather – In Israel – for Battle.
- The Philistine – Goliath – Issues a Personal Challenge and a National Offer.
Responses to Goliath: By Israel's Soldiers, By King Saul, and By David
- David Wins! Goliath Dies.
- Philistines Renege on Goliath's Offer . . . Run Home.
Israel Wins the Battle Against the Philistines.

➤ **Comparing David and Goliath: How Were They Different?** [17:1-54]

- Physical: Appearance. Power. Training. Equipment.
- Emotional: Confidence. Eagerness for Battle.
- Mental: Thoughts, Words, Actions
- Spiritual: Who is on God's Side?

➤ **How Does the Difference Between David and Goliath Make a Difference to Me?**

- How Am I Different from the People Who are Opposing Me? Which of These Differences are Really Important – in the Long Run?
 - *{What about the difference between David and his oldest brother, Eliab?
What about the difference between David and his king, King Saul?}*

*The most important differences are spiritual!
When I am fighting God's battle, on God's side, I always win!*

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING

“Principles for Living” (PFLs) are (1) restatements of the truth found in the Scripture text, or (2) valid conclusions based on that truth. I should believe and act on these PFLs only if I see – for myself – the truths in Scripture that validate these PFLs.

1. The way I *naturally* see things, may be completely wrong! Someone who seems strongest, may lose. Someone who seems weakest, may win.
2. The most important difference between people is that some people are on God’s side, and others are not. This difference (which, most of the time, is invisible to the physical eye) makes all the difference in who wins.
3. When I decide to do the right thing, for the right reasons, I may face opposition from the people closest and dearest to me . . . and I may face opposition from the people who have power and authority over me.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

If I think a Principle for Living is true, I should list a “Personal Application” – a specific truth I should believe, a specific way I should think, or a specific action I should take in an actual situation of my life.

MEMORY VERSE 1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NLT)

David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD’s battle, and he will give you to us!”¹

FOLLOW-UP

1. Memorize 1 Samuel 17:45-47. What did David say about his – and Goliath’s – preparation for the fight? What did David say would be the outcome of the fight? What reasons did David say were his reasons for fighting against Goliath?
2. Create one Personal Application based on each Principle for Living, which you understand is based on this Scripture. Indicate how the general truth for all believers relates personally and practically to you . . . specifically to your obedience to God.
3. Reread 1 Samuel 17. If Goliath had known about God, and God’s power, what would he have said and done differently?! What should King Saul have said and done differently? What should David’s older brother, Eliab, have said and done differently? What do you think Eliab said to David at the end of the day?!

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2007). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (3rd ed.) (1 Samuel 17:45–47). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.