



*Guest Speaker – John Clum  
New Day Church  
Federal Way, WA  
August 8, 2004*

## **FREEDOM FINDER**

### **Text: 1 Samuel 17**

Freedom Finders— Washington, Lincoln, Martin Luther King, JR, Patton, Ghandi, Mandela,

David—The King

The account of David and Goliath from 1 Samuel 17 is a spring board to examine lessons from the life of David and how personal liberty is empowering.

### **1. David found freedom to exalt God in his circumstances—**

This is an exciting historical story of courage and daring, that is familiar with most people. What led up to it? History is a series of events that lead to a tilting point, a point at which the old is separated from the new. (People used to think like that but now they think like this. People used to act like that but now they act like this. People used to believe like that but now they believe like this) David's job had been to shepherd the flock of sheep. It was something only the 8th son would be assigned. All the better jobs were taken so he was in a dead-end place. Effectively he was underemployed. He did not complain or become embittered. He used the time to practice his skills as a musician, with weapons, with nature, with words, with strength and stamina, with response time, with viewing the heavens.

I need you to slow down with me to consider the contemplative side of David. It gave him the "fear of God." Respect. When did you see the stars? I saw them in the Steens Mountains in 1974. Development in this contemplative area lent strength to his mind, grasp of reality, view of the creator, hierarchy, to beauty, grandeur, The orbit and placement of the stars can be tracked and understood and Astronomy is a grand discipline and allows man to track orbits and the placement of the stars but viewing the heavens offers perspective and a view of God and His handiwork.

Walt Whitman's described the wonder and impact of the stars this way:

When I heard the learn'd astronomer,  
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,

When I was shown the charts and diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them,  
When I sitting heard the astronomer where he lectured with much applause in the lecture-  
room,  
How soon unaccountable I became tired and sick,  
Till rising and gliding out I wander'd off by myself,  
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time  
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

Teddy Roosevelt commented, “At night I walk outside the White House and look up at the stars and see that God has the universe under control. Then I go in and sleep through the night” When did I last consider the Creator? How did it happen, why does it work?

David had contemplated God and wanted to defend Him more than the sheep. God does not need to be defended as He will always stand. David saw the attack on God the creator as a blasphemous assault on Someone he esteemed and respected. He was righteous in his defense of God. As God's children we should feel attacked when He is attacked. A personal world view recognizing an awesome God is a necessary basic foundation for individuals and our nation as it allows us to see issues with clarity. Its part of our moral compass to recognize Someone bigger than ourselves. It moves me from being the center of the universe to God being the ultimate Being worthy of exultation. (Lincoln, Edison, Franklin, Colin Powell, Eisenhower—humble beginnings)

## 2. David found freedom from fear—

Those in the army were already defeated as they saw the opposition. He had already taken lambs out of the mouths of a bear and a lion. He knew his weapons and armed himself with five smooth stones—He knew there were five giants. David had his wits about him. He was light on his feet and gravitated to the battle and did it his way. He went on the offence. He saw the victory instead of defeat. He considered the insults to God more grievous than the threats of a giant. I fear the **No Fear** mentality of our young generation is a masquerade of bravado. The enemy is real, and dangerous and threatening yet the young shepherd had a slingshot. He had confidence borne from winning other battles. . David was up front with Goliath. He told him, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand and I will strike you and take your head from you...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.”

Our Shepherd is armed with a rod and a staff and is ready to protect us.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### **3. David found God's strength to be freeing**

One the one hand David possessed many stellar attitudes and qualities: a heart for God, Poet, Musician, Commander with loyalty of his soldiers, brave, desire to do great things for God, (temple), liberator for the nation with expanded boundaries and left the nation in peace and with a successor to the throne, Administrator/ King. God had picked him out as a youth saying, "...For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Not bad for a shepherd boy out practicing skills on his own.

On the other hand David was continually facing adversity—Being overlooked by his family, persecuted by the King Saul, mocked by his wife for his style of worship, personal moral failures, disloyalty and rebellion from his son, Absalom, disobedience from his generals, lost his infant son, mourned publicly and then bathed and was criticized, loneliness in the desert, abandonment by his support community. Feigned insanity to stay alive in the camp of the Philistines.

But David overcame adversity. He was one of the over comers of whom it is promised in Rev. 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." .

God builds potential in every one of us. Our purpose, like David's, is to bring glory to God and to serve our fellow brothers and sisters. David often had only the comfort of his God who erased his shame, guilt and burdens.

### **4. Others found freedom through David's appropriate responses--.**

Exercised appropriate responses—the men with the water from the spring by the gate of Bethlehem who broke through the camp of the Philistines, Saul in the cave, (Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed") praise to the lord in time of victory, did not kill his critic who cursed him from the ridgeline nor the fool, Nabal.

### **APPLICATIONS—**

**A. Make the most of where God has placed you--** Last week, Brock Lesnar, also known as “The Next Great Thing”, a former NCAA heavy weight wrestling champion, signed with the Minnesota Vikings because he was dissatisfied seeing the direction his life was taking. He has the tools, (6’3”, 286 lbs) the interest, and desire; however, the coaches consider him a project with a capital P until he gets enough practice. Consider the time on the sidelines, away from the spotlight as practice time. Make the most of the place God has put you. Practice contemplating God by thanking Him for the many gifts to you have received. When I consider the abilities and skills distributed to those of you in this room its obvious that God has given the make-up for greatness.

Earlier—Saul had asked for a musician and a court attendant gave this recommendation—the son of Jesse is a talented harp player. Not only that; he is brave and strong and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him. Practice pays off. People do notice you and are looking for a place for you to contribute, to carry your load.

God uses out of the box tactics to advance His plans. He uses the weak, the last born, the obscure, the fearful, the odd (Gideon, John the Baptist, Esther, Ruth, Rahab, Paul, Anna, the widow of Not by might nor by power but by the strength of the Lord will my work be accomplished. For my ways are not your ways, for as the heavens are above the earth, so are my ways above your ways.

**B. No Fear—**Look at your enemies from a heavenly perspective. Giants fall with a big crash. The ungodly trip themselves. We have a shepherd with a rod and staff.

**C. God vs. your giant—**what giant are you facing? Dissatisfaction, habits, a desire for something or someone not yours, health issue, disappointment with God, an unfair situation, laziness, procrastination, making others first instead of me? Turn the tables on your giant. What marks David as a giant on the pages of scripture is the fact that he trusted God against each enemy he faced. In effect his enemies were facing a giant. It is frightening to think of facing down our biggest enemy, that thing we have come to fear, but God is the rock on who we base our rescue and hope. His strength and his plan for us will be the ultimate outcome. Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. When you and I desperately turn to God and seek his help and assurance, we turn into giants of faith that make our enemies, the giants fear. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. 1 Samuel 16:13. You become a fearsome adversary when you walk in the Spirit of the Lord.

**My Response—The ultimate response--.** David woke up one morning with a mission. He realized that he lived in a cedar paneled house in luxury while God's house was a tent with curtain walls. He asked Nathan, his spiritual advisor if he could build a temple for the Lord. Nathan gave the notice to proceed, but God countermanded the direction by saying this: 2 Samuel 7:12, 13,16 When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you, Your throne shall be established forever.

Then one thousand years later, scripture records a conversation between a young woman and an angel--

Then the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1:30-33.

We cannot imagine the blessing and spiritual riches God has planned for us as we seek Him and run back to Him over and over. Esteem other's rights; count others lives as very valuable. 1 Peter 5:6, 7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.