

FEAR – STONE DEAD!

May 20, 2018

“We can all relate to fear in one form or another. It hits us like a wave, threatening to swallow us in its undertow. We are afraid of losing people, possessions, our position. We fear physical pain. We fear emotional pain. We fear personal pain. God seldom seems further from you than when your heart is filled with fear. But the Bible recognizes that one of our greatest problems is fear. It is never very far away, for any of us. Many of the Bible people we regard as heroes shared the same fears that are so familiar to us.” (James MacDonald, Always True)

COURAGE – “Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the determination to act in faith, in spite of fear. True courage is drawn from the faith that God is sovereign, even in the face of adversity.” (John MacArthur)

THE STANDOFF – DAVID VS. GOLIATH

- I. Why were the Israelites so afraid?
 - 1) The **STRENGTH** OF THE ENEMY
-Goliath – almost **10** feet tall
 - 2) The **STAKES** OF THE BATTLE
-winner causes opposing army to become slaves
 - 3) The **SUSTAINED** CHALLENGE OF GOLIATH
-**40** DAYS, **MORNING** and **EVENING**

result =discouraging and terrifying

“Fear has been described as a small trickle of doubt that flows through the mind until it wears such a great channel that all your thoughts drain into it. We find ourselves unable to function.” (David Jeremiah)

II. **1 Samuel 17:26 “Who is the uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the LIVING GOD?”** = DAVID’S **FIRST** recorded words in the whole Bible.

Why was David so full of courage?

1. THE **PRESENCE** OF GOD

-for the believer inf Jesus Christ, God is with each of us

INDIVIDUALLY and **PERSONALLY** *Deuteronomy 31:6

*Psalms 34:18

***Hebrews 7:25 “Jesus always lives to make intercession for believers”**

“When you’re going through hardship, or when you’re heavyhearted and burdened, God rolls up His sleeves and moves toward you in a way that’s unlike any other time. It doesn’t matter if you can see Him working. His approach may not cause you to feel any different. Sometimes it feels like God backs away from you when you hit hard times, but that’s not true.

Psalm 34:18 says, “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” Is your heart breaking today? God is rushing toward you. He stands there with you in the fire. I couldn’t feel it at the time, but looking back, God has been right there with me during my darkest days. He gave me the wisdom to make the choices that lead me out of a very deep valley. He gave me the strength that kept me from wandering off the path into deepest despair. He prompted the friend to call at just the right moment. He caused the sun to peek through. I truly would not have survived the last few years without God’s abiding presence in my life. One of the places God met me most was in His Word. March of 2008 was the bottom of the bottom for me-all darkness and no light. I couldn’t pray-or even think of something to ask God for-the way was so dark and lonely. It truly seemed that the circumstances would never change or improve in any way. As I wept and wondered and wandered through Isaiah I was floored by the clear word in **Isaiah 60:20-21, “the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.”** The presence of God could not have been more obvious to me if He had appeared visibly in the room. I know those were God’s affirming words to me and quickly marked the margin of my Bible.” James MacDonald

“IF YOU COULD HEAR THE LORD PRAYING FOR YOU IN THE NEXT ROOM, YOU WOULD NOT FEAR A THOUSAND ENEMIES.”

(source unknown)

2. THE **PROMISE** OF GOD – “The Lord is my helper.” Hebrews 13:6
3. DAVID’S **PASSION** for the glory of God.

III. I can’t face the giants in my life. Jesus seems so distant from me.

HEART CHECK:

PRIDE: “The haughty God knows from afar.” (Psalm 138:6)

WORLDLINESS: “Friendship with the world is enmity with God.” (James 4:4)

REBELLION: “Why rebel? I will hide my eyes from you.” (Isaiah 1:5,15)

UNCONFESSED SIN: “If I cherish iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. (Psalm 66:18)

TURN from the above, RETURN to fellowship with God and HOLD ON TO Romans 8:32 – “God, who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

“SINCE GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN YOU HIS BEST, WON’T HE ALSO HEAR YOUR PRAYER FOR ANYTHING LESS?”