

Series: No Fear Here

Message Title: #2 Giants Talk!

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the story of David & Goliath (maybe split it up between 2 or 3):

1 Samuel 17:1-51

Discussion Part 1:

Discuss how that being fearless and having confidence in God doesn't necessarily make you popular with everyone. Did it make David more 'loved' by his family? We assume that being fearless makes us acceptable when it's actually the other way around. Our culture is wired to accept and embrace fear. Talk about how pharmaceutical companies, insurance businesses, security firms, weight loss programs ... all use fear, concern, and worry to sell their products. If you are not under the persuasion of fear than you are not a cultural norm. Society is typically afraid of what it can't control ... a person who's after God's own heart.

S.Marshall thoughts:

Israel had the option to make peace with their giant. It would have meant slavery, but that is typically the 'cost of doing business' with the enemy. It's interesting how in our world system there is a likability for those who want to keep the peace, but a scorn and intolerance for those who want to "make" peace. Keeping peace is all about compromising with the giant. Making peace is the intolerance of the giant and his terms. Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Take a few minutes and share what 'giant' you've tried to keep peace with; and what it might look like overcoming that 'giant' as a child of God with His help.

Have someone read:

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Discussion Part 2:

Consider the above scripture. What is the spirit of fear the counterfeit to? Notice that God doesn't just give us the Spirit of power, or the Spirit of love. It's a threefold, a triune infilling that includes power, love, and a sound mind. What's a car without fuel and an engine? Powerless. Without a driver and passenger? Lifeless. Without a road and destination? Stuck, useless, without purpose. Talk about the challenge parents find themselves in having great love for their children but lacking clarity on what to do.

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

Some people make a partnership or agreement with anger, even rage, because growing up they felt powerless. The thing they fear or dread is the sense of being out of control, lost, vulnerable.

So at a crisis point in their life (often it begins at a young age) they opt for a counterfeit to true power which could be anger, manipulation, or even the silent treatment. This gives them a false sense of power and control. The same type of deception takes root when counterfeiting love or a disciplined mind. Thank God all of this can be dismantled with the weapons of our warfare. Jesus makes us victorious!

Life Application:

If you feel like you've made an 'agreement' with any substitute for God's power or love in your life, you can quickly and easily take care of this today. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 say, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." The Word says "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us." The price Jesus paid is to forgive and to redeem. So lay down the anger, rage, any manipulation, pride, sarcasm, criticism, and yes - even excuses that help insulate you from the fear of failure - cast it down in Jesus Name. In it's place receive the gifts He gives freely: power, love, and a sound, peaceful mind.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Praying something like this based on 1 Samuel 17, and 2 Timothy 1:7:

"Lord we have believed the enemies lies at times. When life hurt we believed we were powerless, but the Truth is You have given us power over the enemy according to Luke 10:19. We once believed we were unloved, but God You so loved us that You gave Your only begotten Son Jesus to redeem us. There have been times we have felt double minded, confused, and even at war with our thoughts. Now we have the mind of Christ, and dedicate the arena of our thoughts to Your glory. If David could take down a giant in Your Name, we can do even greater things in this world (John 14:12). We say "no" to the enemies lies, and we stand firm in our faith declaring, "No Fear Here!" In Jesus Name! (Now continue to pray one for another).