

The New Testament Church
Training for Spiritual War – 1st Samuel 17:29
Pastor Paul Jehle – April 23, 2023

I David and Goliath – 1st Samuel 17

A. Goliath and the Philistines

1. The Philistines mocked the God of the Israelites, but put forth a champion
2. Goliath stood 9 feet, six inches tall – armor 125 pounds, sword 15, spear tip 15!
3. The enemy we must focus on is spiritual, not flesh and blood – he defies our God

B. David and the Israelites

1. David stood around 5 feet tall, would take no armor but a sling and five smooth stones
2. He was willing to risk his life for the entire nation of Israel – representing them
3. He went out “in the name of the Lord” – hitting the only unarmed area – the mind

C. How was David trained for War?

1. He spent time with God, his harp, and trained with a cause for kingdom justice (private)
 - a. *Who is this uncircumcized Philistine that defies the armies of God?* (1st Sam. 17:26)
 - b. We are chosen by God from the foundation of the world – (ph. 1:4)
 - c. Ps. 127; Pr. 29:18; God works generationally; where no vision, people have no self-restraint
2. He learned character – integrity – to give, not get; to stand, trusting in God (pressure)
 - a. *Your servant killed both lion and bear, this Philistine like one of them* (1st Sam 17:36)
 - b. Pr. 13:4; 16:3 – take responsibility for actions, and develop a good work ethic
 - c. Entitlement is the enemy, the poison, that can warp character development
3. He had the courage to declare victory before it happened due to his faith in God (practice)
 - a. *David... ran toward the... Philistine* (1st Sam. 17:48) – he took the initiative
 - b. James 4:17; Romans 12:21 – do what is right and overcome evil with good
 - c. 1st John 5:4, Heb. 12:2 – Our faith (looking unto Jesus) overcomes the world

II The Battle for Iwo Jima – February 19 to March 26, 1945

A. *The cause of liberty and justice, the character exposed by its defense, and the courage required to work out the victory declared, is a testimony of the Christian heritage of our nation*

1. The small Island of Iwo Jima – 30,000 soldiers killed in five weeks (6k/week; 857/day; 36/hr)
2. Japanese had built 16 miles connecting 1,500 caverns underground for over twenty years
3. American bombers had attempted to “soften” the island and destroy underground bunkers

B. The Cause – American (honor God and nation); Japanese (honor the state and empire)

1. America trained marines on desert sands of California, weren’t told where they would fight
2. D-day February 19, 1945 at 8:59 AM – 80,000 deployed (more than any battle); few survived
3. Americans hardly ever saw the enemy, were out in the open, yet had a drive “within”
4. The island was strategic – it would be a runway for bombers to get to Japan to end the war

C. The Character – to keep going no matter who died next to you, *the end is worth the means...*

1. They carried more than a hundred pounds of gear, wrote letters protecting the family at home
2. The Japanese strategy – let them all land, then kill 10 for every one of us – demoralize them
3. They had to unseat the enemy nest by nest (bushes), flame throwers, tanks, on “sulfur” island

D. The Courage – to declare victory by raising a flag on only the 5th day – of a five week battle!

1. Climbed Mt. Suribachi, raised a flag (most iconic image in WWII), cheers from the beach!
 - a. White for purity and innocence – defend the victims of injustice (our cause)
 - b. Red – hardiness and valor – the courage to risk one’s life to inspire others
 - c. Blue – vigilance, perseverance and justice – the character to maintain liberty
2. This was strategic, more nests, a position of strength, yet could come under fire at anytime
3. Why weren’t they assaulted? Probably the Japanese never thought they would climb so early!
4. More medals awarded than any other battle in WWII; 6,800 killed, 26k wounded (1 in 3)