

Chapter Nineteen – Saul Becomes Jealous of David

The three oldest sons of Jesse were in the army. He was worried about them so he sent David to check on his brothers. When he met his brothers in the battlefield, he saw how badly Goliath scared the Israelite army. Despite the fact that Saul promised to reward the man who killed Goliath by waiving taxes and giving his daughter to him, still no one dared to challenge Goliath. So David himself offered to fight against him.

Saul did not see how this could happen as David was much smaller than Goliath. But David told him confidently, "I am not afraid of him. When I watch my father's sheep, lions and bears come to steal them. I chase after them, catch them by the throat and kill them. God has always been with me and protected me from them, and I am certain that God will protect me from this dirty Philistine."

So Saul made David wear his own armour but it was too heavy for him. "I cannot fight like this," he said to Saul, "I must have my arms free to swing my sling." David ran down into the valley and chose five smooth stones from the stream there and put them in his pocket. Then he ran up to meet Goliath. News soon spread to both camps that David would fight the giant, and all came out to watch the fight.

When Goliath saw David, he felt insulted, "What?" he said, "You come to me with your staff as if I were a dog. Come closer and I will give your body to the birds to eat." But David replied, "You come to me with a sword, a shield and a spear. I come to you in the name of my God whom you have insulted. Come nearer and I will cut off your head and give your body to the dogs to eat."

David slung a stone at Goliath, hit him in his forehead and broke his skull. Goliath dropped to the ground facing downwards. Then David ran up, drew his big sword and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw this they ran for their lives, but the Israelites chased after them and defeated their army.

When Saul's army returned from the victory, all the people praised David more than Saul. They were shouting, "Saul killed thousands, but David killed tens of thousands." Saul was angry and at the same time he was worried that David might be a threat to his kingship. He knew that God was with David but had abandoned him for what he had done.

David was sent for to play the harp for Saul. He realized that Saul was suspicious of his loyalty and might harm him in some ways. He took extra care whenever he paid a visit to Saul. One day, Saul lost control and threw a spear twice at David but he successfully dodged the spears. Saul was now even more certain that God was with David.

After that, Saul made David the commander of his troops and sent him to war. He was hoping that David might be killed by the enemy. However, every time David came back with great success and the people loved him even more. Later, Saul tried to trap David by promising his daughter as David's wife on condition that David should kill one hundred Philistines. But David succeeded in the mission and Saul had to give him his daughter.



David defeats Goliath

Questions:

1. Why did nobody dare to challenge Goliath?
2. What made David so confident that he would defeat Goliath?
3. Name TWO good leadership qualities of David.
4. Goliath was a bully. What does that mean?
5. How do you think we should deal with bullies or bullying?
6. How did Saul try to trap David?