

Power Play: Giant Killers

“Stand your ground and fight your battles like a man.”

That was the counsel my absentee father gave me on the evening of our pre-wedding engagement party. While they weren't words I was averse to hearing, they were words I wasn't willing to hear from the man who had just uttered them.

2 Samuel 21:15-22 is the story of a father, king, and uncle who found redemption in a generation of young leaders who were willing to walk in his footsteps.

To say that David was the greatest King of Israel and a failed parent would not be raining on his parade or putting his business in the street. He was who he was, and the record is what it is.

In 2 Samuel 21 we find a king in the twilight of his strength but not his courage. His warrior heart is not failing him, only his fatigued body. Placing him in a situation where he has to trust his nephew to do something on his behalf that has been second nature to him for 40 plus years.

Giant Killers

Over time David created a generation of giant killers. He passed on the best parts of himself distilled from years of success and failure. Abishai wasn't born when his uncle killed Goliath, but when the opportunity arose for him to step up he was confident. He walked up to his giant declaring, "I got, I got giant killing inside my DNA."

15 years into my marriage we faced our own giants. It was then that I realized what my father was privately trying to tell me, in that very public space. He was saying be more than me. Fight for all that God is placing in your future. Be more for yours than I was for you. Don't run, "stand your ground and fight your battles like a man."

May our power play be to empower generations of giant killers, that empower generations of giant killers. May we build kingdom legacy into the culture of our families and the fabric of our communities. And above all, may we personally concern ourselves with the legacy of our doings that point to Jesus.

Perfecting Your Practice

"O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink." Faith Practices in Perfection. Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Tuesday, October 23, 2018

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"David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee" (1 Samuel 17:37).

Getting Ready

You have heard it said that practice makes perfect, but I say to you that perfect practice makes perfect.

Many rehearse music in order to become the best that they can be. They put their all into it. Just imagine if you were rehearsing for a piano recital and the musical piece was selected for you? You go to the music store to purchase the score and go to rehearse. Weeks have passed and the time has come to perform. You sit and prepare yourself, and suddenly you realize that the music you had been rehearsing was all wrong. You heard wrong and now you are completely unprepared. Now what do you do?

David was a little shepherd boy. One day he left his sheep behind to check on his older brothers. At once, he discovered that a giant Philistine stood in the valley blaspheming God near to where his brothers were. The giant openly defied God and the armies of Israel. David was filled with righteous indignation.

“And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” I Samuel 17:26.

David proposed that in the name of the Lord, he should fight the Philistine; everyone that stood by discouraged him. Eventually, he had audience with King Saul and told him the same.

Dress Rehearsal

“And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father’s sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee” (1 Samuel 17:33-37).

Glorious, Godly History

There are many incredible details left in the story, but the short version is that David, armed with the might and determination of the Holy Ghost, defeated and removed Goliath’s head using the Philistine’s own weapon. In the end, the Lord was glorified, the Philistines had respect toward God, Israel realized their faithlessness, and young David saw his faith confirmed.

It is incredible to see the point of reference David used as assurance that he could defeat Goliath. He recalled the times that God had given him opportunity to exercise, or practice his faith. When he encountered other predators, he defeated them. With each victory, his resolve was strengthened. This is indeed a case of perfect practice makes perfect. Many put their trust in self, others, and worldly strength. They experience what appears like

victories, but when the crises come, they realize that their practice was not complete. They rehearsed the wrong sheet music, so to speak, and now they are at a loss as to what should be done.

When You Meet Your Test

As the Lord gives us opportunity to exercise faith, it is well that we do so. When the Goliaths of circumstance arise, we will be prepared and with God's power, we will be the victors. Remember; perfect practice makes perfect.