

Session 5: David and the Anointing of Courage (1 Sam. 17)

I. AN OVERVIEW TO 1 SAMUEL 17

- A. This is an account of actual events that took place in Israel's history. The issue at stake was the slavery and destruction of Israel through Goliath the giant, the great enemy of the people of the covenant.
- B. In David's generation, the Philistines were the most advanced enemy and Goliath the most intimidating. And David, under the anointing of the Spirit (16:13) met him on the battlefield for a showdown. The story of 1 Samuel 17 is what happened after 1 Samuel 16, when the Holy Spirit came mightily upon David from that day forward" (1 Sam. 16:13). In chapter 17 David experiences God's power in a sudden way that establishes him in national prominence.
- C. A national crisis suddenly erupted against Israel which could not be answered by any of Israel's political or military means. Goliath, the mighty champion appeared unstoppable and by human agency he was. The outcome of this battle would determine Israel's future.
- D. This most significant national crisis for Israel is a clear prophetic foreshadowing of the Antichrist's coalition of nations that afflict the whole earth (Rev. 13; Zech. 12–14).
- E. The applications of this conflict for us today.
 - 1. The struggle of the Church against the enemy through history.
 - 2. The conflict and victory of the End-Time Church.
 - 3. The struggle between courage and cowardice.
- F. The four categories of people in the conflict (taken from Reinhard Bonnke)
 - 1. Ex-anointed professional – Saul (picture of leaders who lost the anointing)
 - 2. Un-anointed professionals – Saul's army (picture of ministries without power)
 - 3. Anti-anointed – Goliath (as a picture of the Antichrist)
 - 4. Anointed non-professional – David (picture of those anointed in worship and prayer)

II. DAVID AND THE SUPERNATURAL GIFT OF COURAGE

Courage: "*Courage* is what makes someone capable of facing extreme danger and difficulty without retreating (: *the courage to confront the enemy head-on*). It implies not only bravery and a dauntless spirit but the ability to endure in times of adversity; bravery, fortitude, valour, resolve, fearlessness, intrepidity, nerve, daring, audacity, boldness, grit, true grit, heroism, gallantry; guts" (NEW OXFORD DICTIONARY)

- A. In this session I want to develop the Biblical call to courage and the anointing of the Spirit that empowers us to walk it out as well practical ways to cultivate it. David was operating under supernatural unction in 1 Samuel 17 that empowered him to embrace the courage that the nation was incapable of mustering. The nation of Israel was crippled by fear.

All the men of Israel...fled from him and were dreadfully afraid. 25 The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel." (1 Sam. 17:24–25)

- B. The source of David's ability to walk in courage when his nation and his generation was walking in cowardice was two-fold: the anointing of the Spirit and his history in God as a worshiper.

David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"...28 Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke...and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." 29 David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?" (1 Sam. 17:26–30)

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD! (Psalm 31:24)

Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD. (Psalm 27:14)

When I called, you answered me. You made me bold by strengthening my soul. (Psalm 138:3)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? (Psalms 27:1)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea... (Psalm 46:1–2)

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? (Psalm 56:3–4)

They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody! (Psalm 57:6–7)

III. THE GREAT NEED OF COURAGE IN OUR DAY

- A. **The general mandate** – Every believer is called to resist fear/cowardice and to embrace courage/confidence. Interestingly, cowardice is the first thing mentioned in relationship to the lake of fire in Revelation 21. In 1 John 4 John called believers out of fear and into maturity of love. And in Romans 8 Paul revealed in the heart of God towards him and scoffs at the notion of embracing fear. For Paul, as a believer, fear was the antithesis of his inheritance and an affront on the nature of God.

8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)

- B. **The apostolic mandate** – On the eve of the crucifixion Jesus spoke much about resisting fear and entering the next season with an intention to embrace courage. In fact, throughout the 3 1/2 years with the disciples Jesus spoke much about fear. The apostolic mandate to preach the Gospel to every tribe, tongue and nation is a daunting mandate; a mandate that requires supernatural boldness.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither LET them be afraid. (John 14:27)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29–30)

- C. **The eschatological mandate** – Fear will dominate the atmosphere of the planet in the decades that precede Jesus' return. In Luke 21 Jesus told the disciples that "hearts will fail from fear" because of what they will witness. In Revelation 6 and 9 John saw the intensity of the final generation moving men to "seek death" because of fear. The prophetic mandate to the end-time church in the face of the coming adversity of the Great Tribulation is courage and faith. In Luke 18 Jesus asked whether He would find faith on the earth at His return. Enduring faith will be one of the primary hallmarks of the end-time church.

15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" (Revelation 6:15–17)

- D. **The ministry mandate** – The call to ministry requires courage; in the church and out of it. The western church culture of ministry is plagued by fear and cowardice. The primary word of the Lord to Joshua as he stepped into his calling was to resist fear and to be full of courage. We as a fledgling movement are called to diligently cultivate courage in our lives through a deliberate pursuit of Jesus' heart.

Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous... 7 Only be strong and very courageous... 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:5–9)

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- A. There are four primary ways we as a community can cultivate a culture of courage in our midst:

1. **Pray for the gift of courage** – It's important that we use the language of "courage" in our prayer and intercession as a synonym for Biblical realities we're already used to praying about. For example, in Ephesians 3:14–19 when Paul prays that the saints would be "strengthened with divine might through the Spirit in their inner-man," it's appropriate that we understand one of the nuances of "divine might" as being supernatural courage. Getting language for it helps us get a vision for it which helps us to get it.

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29–30)

2. **Preach about the call to courage** – From the pulpit and from the dinner table it's important that we begin to call each other to embrace courage and to resist cowardice. This must happen corporately and one-on-one. We're all weak and frail and require the prophetic call over and over again to set ourselves to seek the highest in God.
3. **Evaluate our decision making processes deliberately to resist fear** – Fear of failure and fear of man our primary factor in decision making. This is cowardice. We must resolve to declare war on the sin of cowardice in our hearts. This looks like vowing not to make decisions based on fear. Cowardice is an affront on the nature and character of God. Imagine if you had the ability for one week to not make any decision based out of fear.
4. **Encourage one another consistently** – Encouragement imparts courage. One of the reasons the church is entrenched in so much cowardice is because we are terrible at encouraging one another. Where there is encouragement there will be courage. The greatest way to encourage each other is by declaring the Word of God to each other. It's so 'natural' but the fruit is so 'supernatural.' It was Samuel's encouragement of David no doubt that motivated David to such radical extremes in the months that followed. Small and seemingly insignificant declarations to weak human hearts can alter the destinies of nations.