

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)
Volume 5, No. 8 February 21, 2010

Services

Bible Study 10 a.m.
Morning Service.....11 a.m.
Evening Service.....6 p.m.
Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

- **Robyn Hamilton's** sister, Cathy is awaiting surgery for a broken pelvis and two broken legs. Please pray for her recovery.
- **Dema Franklin** – had surgery on her elbow this week.
- **Dema's** sister-in-law – bone cancer has spread to her liver.
- **Scott Shaw's** dad, Tommy – battling liver cancer.
- **Martha Holloway's** recurring back and heart ailment.
- **Jason Henderson** – needs encouragement; keep him in your prayers.
- **Ernest Peeples** – needs prayers of encouragement.
- **Janna Wells** – back problems.
- **Marie Adams** – knees are doing better with new medication.
- **Jeanne Lynne** – facing more surgeries.
- **Aaron Gibson's** brother-in-law is facing extensive rehab. Please keep him in your prayers.

Sunday Morning Class
Psalms

Wednesday Night Class
Character Studies

NO SWORD IN DAVID'S HAND

Ralph Walker

"Ladies and gentlemen, in this corner, weighing in at 230 pounds, with a height of 6 foot, 4 inches, winner of 63 professional bouts, holder of the Olympic gold medal in boxing, present champion of the world, Goliath. His opponent, with a weight of 153 pounds and a height of 5 foot, 7 inches, first time ever in a. professional fight, the 14 year old, Ben Jesse."

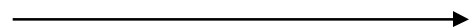
Some fight, huh? Is there any doubt who would win that one? Do you think there would be any takers in a bee on the Champ? I mean, who would think the kid might have a chance? Maybe someone who had read **1 Samuel 17** lately. Though the names, characteristics, ages, and situation have been altered, the basic confrontation really did happen. America, loves underdogs. We thrill to stories of heroism. Tales in which overwhelming odds were dashed and defeat was turned into swat victory. These stories give us hope that we too, ordinary citizens though we may be, can do great things if we dare. And isn't that what David is teaching us? **1 Samuel 17** gives spiritual incentive to every Christian who reads it. It is the classic example of the underdog thrashing the champion. Compare the two opponents.

First, Goliath of Gath, Champion Fighter. He stood about 9 feet tall, wore some of the "heaviest threads" around (120lbs of armor) and hefted a spear whose head alone weighed more than a 16 lb. bowling ball. But his self reliance and blasphemy of God's people led him to the last brawl in which he would ever engage. The blood shed would be his own.

David, Son of Jesse, was the baby of a family of eight sons. It was not uncommon to leave David out of important matters (**1 Sam. 16:11; 17:13-15**). He was multi-talented; he played the harp so well he came to the immediate attention of Saul's advisors. He wrote some of the deepest spiritual poetry ever read. He was a shepherd, a hunter of note (having killed lion and bear), and had been appointed as armor bearer to Saul. But most importantly, David was a man "after God's own heart" (**1 Sam. 13:14; 16:7**).

For forty days, Israel had begun the morning by suiting up in armor and going out to war. They gathered on the rim of the valley and gazed at the enemy arrayed on the other hill. But just as they got up nerve to rush out, the big man came down. Goliath would strut up and down the valley, roaring that there was no opponent of the "servants of Saul" (he did not even give them credit for being soldiers) to face him. The rules were simple: whoever won in single combat could claim the entire army of his rival as slaves. Like a Muhammed Ali of old, he had completely psyched the Israelites into thinking they could not possibly beat him. Even the incentives of Saul—tax free status, great wealth and the hand of Saul's daughter—could not move a man to walk down into that "valley of death" to face the Champ. Goliath stood alone in the valley and no man would match him in battle.

Now imagine the anger of these Israelite soldiers when a kid starts questioning their valor. They had been humiliated for forty days. David was saying, "I'll kill this heathen for you." Don't we have similar scenes reenacted today? The veterans of religious wars grumble and mutter about conditions in the world, or the breakout of some false doctrine, and



North San Diego church of Christ

7090 Miramar Road #102
San Diego, CA 92121

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 721513
San Diego, CA 92172

Phone: 858-578-0734

<http://www.nsdca.com>

All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Col 3:16**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want
He makes me to lie down in green
pastures
He leads me beside the still waters
He restores my soul
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death I will fear no evil
For You are with me
Your rod and Your staff they comfort me
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies
You anoint my head with oil
My cup runs over
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever

Psalm 23

Walk beside me, O my Savior
While life's morning sky is bright
Grant me now thy loving favor
Flood my path with heav'nly light
Whether good or ill betide me
Whether skies be dark or clear
Ever stay so close beside me
I may know and feel Thee near

Blessed Savior walk with me
Take away all anxious fear
Ever stay so close beside me
I may know and feel thee near

James M. Black

[No Sword...]

then some little untried and unknown boy says, "Can't you deal with it? Cause I can if you won't." He is branded as brash, cocky, and a sure-fire failure. I am not saying youth has all the answers. But sometimes, a David will venture where an Eliab or Shammah will refuse to go. We need to give our Davids a chance.

It is strange that David would venture into mortal combat without that essential weapon, the sword. Yet verse 50 tells us there was no sword in David's hand. I think there are some good lessons in that fact.

David was not a soldier. He had come from the sheep pastures. When presented with Saul's armor, he felt uncomfortable (vv. 38, 39). But though he was untrained in war, he went out to fight for Israel. I am reminded of Paul's statement in **1 Corinthians 1:27**, "... God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things that are strong." Here was a boy, of no proven skill in combat, facing one who was raised for that purpose. So many of us sit and refuse to do what needs doing because there are others better trained to do it. There is no reason for us to watch the battle take place from the safety of the hillside. Let us all get into the valley and wage warfare for God. There are battles needing our efforts in personal work, in public worship, and in restoring the reprobate.

David had weapons of his own. Verse 40 tells us he armed himself with the sling and staff that had been constant companions in the fields. He was comfortable with them. He knew what he could do with them. And the lesson applies to us. But another weapon that David used, and certainly this was his most valuable, was the power of God. He declared his confidence in this weapon in v. 37. We want to note that David did not expect God to kill Goliath for him. It required the work of David, but God helped. David took risks, and exerted himself, and enjoyed the praise and glory, but God helped him always. God will not work for us, but will work with us. When we pray for God's help, let us remember that He will walk into the valley at our side, but never in our place. He stands beside us, not before us.

David did not utilize the weapons of his enemy. Because he won with a sling, there could be no expressions that "he was just better than Goliath at Goliath's own game." When we fight the Devil, we cannot hope to win by "fighting fire with fire." We only get burned. Others may irritate us, curse us, humiliate us and lie about us. We must not reply in kind. Our answering punches must be the retaliation of Jesus, who "... being reviled, reviled not" (**1 Pet. 2:23**). Paul said our weapons are not fleshly, of the world, because we ourselves are not of the world (**2 Cor. 10:3, 4**). If we can adapt to our warfare, using all these great lessons that David leaves for us, who knows but that our conflict with the Goliaths we face may not be just as spectacular?

Some may be saying, "Well, if I had the opportunity to face Goliath, I'd take him on, but I just don't have my giants to battle with." I recall the story of two men who were lying in grass after a hard morning's work. One was big, brawny and powerful. The other was small and wiry. The second man was speaking. He said, "Man, if I had your muscles and body, I'd go into those woods over yonder and find the biggest, meanest, hungriest bear in there, and I'd rip him apart just to show how tough I am." His partner looked at him out of the corner of his eye, pointed at the woods over his shoulder with a thumb and said simply, "Little man, there's plenty of little bears in them woods." Get the point? Okay, got your sling ready?

Excerpted from Guardian of Truth XXVII: 15. p. 456-457 August 4, 1983

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

MINISTER: Dan Austin