

Looking For the Delivering King, Pt. 2—David
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We're gonna get right into it, because we actually have a decent amount of material to cover in the course of the next 20 – 30 minutes, something like that. We are picking up, continuing on the second week looking for the Delivering King. Next week Larry is going to take us into looking *at* the Delivering King, into seeing who He is, who He was—Jesus Christ. But right now what we are doing is we are looking at some of Israel's kings; in particular, their two earliest kings, and how they leave us waiting for the king who will come, who alone can deliver. So we are going to be in 1 Samuel 16-17. Feel free to go ahead and turn there.

This is the story of David, well, the beginning of the story of David. What we see is that over the course of time so far, there's been a good creation gone bad, several ups and downs; mankind sins, God responds with grace. Mankind sins again, God responds with even greater grace. And He is building towards a climax, the climax of all of history, ok, which we will actually be hitting very soon. And what we see is we're at this point where Israel is looking for this delivering king to come, ok? What we'll see is that what they get, what God gives them instead...the second king is King David. He is an outpouring of God's grace, but he is still not the king who can deliver his people for all of eternity. He is still not the king who can intercede on their behalf, rule them righteously for all of eternity. He's still a sinner. He still makes some very big mistakes in his life, commits sin, and he dies. So he is not the delivering king that is promised, for which his people are waiting. But, he is an outpouring of God's grace, so what we're going to look at is we're going to look at a glimpse of David's heart. Ok? And what we're going to look at here is two stories: 1 Samuel 16, and 1 Samuel 17. 1 Samuel 16 is a story about a shepherd boy who is chosen to be king. Ok? Here's what we're going to do. We're going to do something similar to what we did last week, where we look at the story and then make some observations about it. Ok?

So, a shepherd boy chosen to be king...we'll walk through what happens here. God has told Samuel that He has chosen a man after His own heart, meaning that He has chosen someone to be king who has the same desires, the same purposes, the same drives and goals that God has. Ok? And so He's chosen this person, and so He tells Samuel, 'I want you to go to Bethlehem. There you will find this man named Jesse. Jesse has a son, and that's the man I'm talking about.' So Samuel does this. Ok? He goes; he shows up in Bethlehem; he starts talking to Jesse. And what ends up happening...Jesse has his oldest son come before Samuel because, of course, if anybody's going to be king it's going to be the oldest, right? Because that's just the way it works in that culture. And not only that, but Eliab...he's this amazing strong, good looking, you know, strapping young man. Who better among his sons to be king than his oldest?

Well, what ends up happening is Samuel looks at Eliab, and God tells him something. He says, 'Listen, don't look at his appearance. Ok? Don't look at how tall he is. We already tried that with Saul, remember?' That's what everybody wanted, the guy who was, you know, 'Johnny Depp—Sexiest Man Alive', whatever else. We talked about that last week. That was King Saul, and that didn't work out so well. So He says, 'Listen, don't look at how he looks on the outside. People look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. I look at the heart.' And what He says is, 'This man is not the one who has a heart after My own heart.' And I love this. So what happens is Samuel says, 'No, not him.' So Samuel grabs the second son, and here we go, and Samuel says, 'No, that's not him.' Third son...and after the third son they just stop even bothering giving the names because it's just like this conveyor belt process here, where seven sons end up passing before Samuel. Each and every one, he says, 'No, that's not it.'

And so what ends up happening is Samuel then looks at it and says, 'Well, don't you have any other sons? I mean, God said...this is it? What...?' And Jesse says, 'Well, yeah, there's one left. But he's the youngest, he's the runt of the litter, and he's just out keepin' sheep.' Basically he's sayin' like, 'Eh, he's a little shepherd boy. That's all we can really trust him to do. He is not exactly the king you are looking for.' Well Samuel says, 'Go ahead, go get him.'

So Jesse sends to go get him, and David comes back. And when he comes back God says, 'That's the one, right there. That's it. Anoint him, because this is the one.' And at that point in time the Spirit of the LORD rushes upon David from that day forward. Ok?

Now then, we're going to jump forward into 1 Samuel 17. What happens here—we see...and I'll tell you. Both of these episodes are going to tell us something about God's heart, and how God calls people, and what He...what He expects He can do, anyway, through people who are submitted to Him. The second story we're going to look at is the story of a shepherd boy charging into battle, 1 Samuel 17. Now, this is a story that probably most if not all of you know...David and Goliath. Ok? This is the story that, it's like, it makes me think of "Braveheart", or you know, spoke to one younger guy this morning and he asked what I was gonna be speaking on. I mentioned David and Goliath, and his response was like "**Yeah! I love that one!**", you know, because this is a man's man right here. He's charging the field of battle, fighting the giant...ohh, it's awesome. It's like "Braveheart".

Anyway, so here's what happens here. We have this little shepherd boy charging into battle. The Philistines—we know them, they've been around for a while, enemies of Israel. Well, they end up gathering their armies together; Saul and the men of Israel end up doing the same thing. They draw up in lines at the Valley of Elah, ok? Not Allah, but Elah, ok? They draw up in battle lines facing one another. Ok? So they have the battle field set, they have their camps out there. The three oldest brothers of David...they were old enough, strong enough to go off to war. And so they went following Saul and they were part of the army. David, meanwhile, it tells us where he's at. He is the little errand boy, ok? He is now occasionally given the responsibility to take his big brothers lunch, ok? So he is allowed to move away from the sheep and to take his brothers lunch on occasion. That's basically what happens. So he goes back and forth between Bethlehem. Well, what happens, it tells us in verse 17 that one day Jesse tells his son, David, he says, 'Ok, listen, I want you...your mama has baked some bread for your brothers, ok? So here, take them their lunch. Take some cheese, take some bread, here's some grain.' He says, 'Carry them quickly to the camp of your brothers. Give your brothers a hug from your mom and I, let them know we're praying for them, we love 'em, we're proud of 'em. Go guys!' And so...here he goes ahead and does that.

David goes. In verse 20 it says that he came to the encampment, to the place where the army was, and he gets there just as the army is going out to the battle line. Ok? They're going to come out and stand around and see if the fight's going to break out is basically what they're going to do. They're going to taunt one another and say all kinds of mean, ugly things. Well, they go out here in verse 20, and then in verses 23 through 26 it says that the same thing happened that had happened numerous, numerous days before. Goliath, ok, the champion of the Philistines, he comes out of the rank of the Philistines and he starts speaking the same words as before. He starts talkin' junk about the Israelites and about God. Ok? He says all kinds of mean, nasty things to them, and David hears what Goliath is saying. And it ticks him off. Ok? All the other men of Israel...they see Goliath and they get scared. They say, 'Nope, we aren't going to fight today', and they go ahead and back off.

David is like the little Chihuahua. Remember, he's the runt-little-brother-boy who is just beggin' for a fight, almost it seems, like the Chihuahua just sittin' here yappin' at somebody or somethin'; they think they're a dog this tall, a Great Dane or something. But David, he says, 'Who does this guy think he is? Who does he think he is? He's an uncircumcised Philistine. He is not even one of God's covenant people. He does not know God. Who does he think he is that he can actually taunt and make fun of the armies of the living God?' That's basically his response.

Well, David's words get back to Saul. What ends up happening...Saul calls David in. David tells Saul, in verses 32 through 37, what happens. David says, 'Listen, don't let anybody be scared because of this tall guy. Ok, he's big; so what?' basically what he's saying. 'Don't let anyone's heart fail because of him. I'll go fight him.' Saul looks at him and he says, 'You're just a kid.' You know, you can almost hear the laughter in his voice. He's... 'You're just a youth. And not only that, but he has been a man of war from his youth. He has had a long career of stomping on little people like you. Ok? And you haven't ever fought anyone like him.'

Well, David turns around and he says, 'Well, here's the thing. This uncircumcised Philistine, this person who does not even know God, he'll be just like the lions and bears that I killed when I was keeping my father's sheep. He's taunted the armies of the living God. You don't do that. And so the LORD will deliver me from his hand.' See, David right there says, 'You know what? I know I don't have the experience. So what? God does,' is basically what he says. Saul says, 'Ok, fine. Go at it. Here you go, Big Stuff. Right there.' And so he sends David out.

Well, before we get to the point where David is out on the field, let's just set the stage. Because scripture does it and makes it very clear, ok? It paints a picture very clearly of who Goliath was, what he was wearing, what David had with him. Goliath, ok—he has a helmet of bronze (this is from verses 5-7 and then verse 51). He has a helmet of bronze, a coat of mail, bronze-armored legs, a bronze javelin, an iron spear, a sword, and a shield-bearer...a personal body guard. David, on the other hand, has a staff (aka a stick), right, ok...he has a big stick, five smooth stones that he dropped in his little leather shepherd's pouch bag thing here, and he's got his sling. Ok? That's what he's got. Imagine this—if this were modern day, and scripture was written in modern day and this happened

here, it would basically be Goliath would be some sort of like Special Forces soldier. Ok? He's this champion who's been trained, and he's got his Kevlar helmet on, you know; he's got his interceptor body armor with the sappy plates and all that; he's got his M-4 slung around here; maybe he's got an M-14 across his back in case he has to take a longer shot. I don't know. He's got his 9-mm or his 45, whatever is his particular sidearm of choice strapped to his thigh; and not only that, but he's got this personal body guard whose whole job is to take a bullet for him if need be. Ok? And then you have this young punk kid who thinks that he can take this guy on walking out on the field with five little BB's or steel shot about this big, and a wrist rocket. Oh, and he's got a stick that he picked up in his back yard. That's basically the picture that scripture paints of this. It makes it this audacious claim that David is stepping out on a field of battle with someone, where there is no way that he can win. There's none.

Well, here's what happens. As you can imagine, verses 42 through 47, Goliath is not too happy. Ok? He looks at this young kid and he has utter contempt and disdain for him. He looks at him; in fact he sees that it's just a kid and he's got a stick, and he takes insult at this. He says, 'What? You just gonna come at me like I'm some sort of dog with your sticks? Big deal!' David turns, and he goes on and says all kinds of other nasty, mean things about all the stuff he's going to do to David. And then David responds. He says, 'You know what? I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.' David is defining this not as a battle between him and Goliath; he is defining this as a battle between God and Goliath. David is just a tool being used.

"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand...for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

That's what he tells Goliath. Goliath does not respond to this very well, and the fight is on. Ok?

Again I think of "Braveheart", you know, where they're lined up, and kinda near the beginning...Hamish, he ends up looking at William Wallace and he says, 'Where you goin'?' And he's all painted up, and he says, 'I'm goin' to pick a fight.' You know, and he walks out there and says all kinds of mean things to the Englishmen, and then the battle ensues. That's basically is what has just happened.

What happens then is David...he doesn't even just stand his ground. He doesn't back up, anything else. He ran quickly toward the line of battle to meet the Philistine. He takes this stone out of his pouch as he's runnin', he takes it, he slings it, it flies through the air, strikes the Philistine in the forehead, and I love this detail...the stone sunk into his forehead, ok? And he fell down on his face to the ground. To add insult to injury David, just to make sure he's really dead, walks over at that point, pulls Goliath's sword out and chops off his head, holds it up and says, 'Yep, he's dead. Here you go. Any questions?'

Ok, at this point the battle starts goin'. The Philistines are defeated, and David ends up after the battle goin' and talking to Saul. Saul wants to talk to him. And I can't help but think, is it any wonder that 18:1 tells us that Jonathan's heart was knit to David's. They became best friends at that moment because Jonathan...he saw in David the same sort of heart that he displayed back in 1 Samuel 14—a total confidence in what God was able to do whether by few or by many, because God is not restrained by anything for His glory.

Well, here's what we're going to do at this point. We're going to look at the heart displayed on the battlefield, David's heart. What are some observations that we can make about this? Because to tell you the truth, I look at it and I'm like, 'Oh yeah, I love it!' I love stories like this. I want to be the guy charging Goliath on the battlefield, assuming that I know that he's going to be the one who ends up on the ground, right? We love glory. We want to be the person who...we love it when it's down and there's a shot right at the buzzer, and it just goes in, nothin' but net. I mean, we love it. And we live for those moments of glory. But here's the thing...what we're gonna see is the heart displayed on the battlefield that David displayed...it wasn't just about what was goin' on right there on the battlefield. There was a whole lot prior to that that oftentimes we forget about. We look at that athlete and how they perform in the game, in that moment of glory, and we say, 'Man, I wish I could do that!' and we don't pay attention to all the years of training that have gone into making that moment possible that that athlete has done.

In the same way, what we see is David's heart...he's had quite a bit of focus and training preparing his heart for this moment. And it's not for his glory. The first thing that we actually see is that David's heart, the heart that he displayed on the battlefield, was focused on God's glory. Ok? He ends up, in verse 26 of chapter 17, tellin' everyone, 'Who does this man think he is? He's taunting the armies of the living God, the one God who alone is alive, the one God who alone is living and true and real.' In verse 37, as he's talking to Saul, he ends up telling Saul, 'The LORD will deliver me from his hand. The LORD will do this.' He goes on and when he finally gets out on the battle field, in verses 45-47, he makes it very clear to Goliath. He says, 'Listen, I'm not coming to you in my

own name. I'm not coming to you for my glory, to build up my reputation. That's not why I'm coming. The reason I am coming to you is on behalf of God, for His name, for His glory, for His recognition, for His fame.' And he says, 'Because of that, the LORD will deliver you into my hand today, for the battle is the LORD's.' From the get-go, from the very beginning, David is setting the stage that he says, 'You know what? God is about to work a mighty victory here, and I wanna make it clear before the victory is done, that everybody knows it's not me. It's not my abilities, it's not my prowess as a warrior, it's none of that. It's the fact that God is the One who alone can deliver. And when this victory comes, it's God's glory. All the glory is God's.' And he's makin' it stated right up front, because afterwards I'm sure as he's being lifted on people's shoulders and everything else, and the roar of excitement and victory—nobody's gonna hear him. So at the beginning it's kinda like he's calling the shot and he's sayin', 'Yeah, off this, off that, whatever,' it's like an old commercial...anyway, never mind. I won't go there. Michael Jordan, Larry... Nothing.

So he's calling the shot and he's saying, 'It's God's.' So here's the question that I have for you. As you interact with people in your work setting, in your family, are you working on building your name or God's? Are you working on building your reputation or God's? What's the difference? Well, as you approach your profession do you seek to be the best in your profession, to do the best that you can do, to be the best that you can be because you care what people think about you? Or are you doing it because you want to make sure that there is no reason that anyone has to slander the name of God because they know you are a Christian? What's your motivation as you approach your work? Is it to build up your own reputation and your own name, or is it so that people will have occasion to give glory to God?

Same thing with the family. Say your kids...do you look at it and do you want your kids to turn out to be the best possible kids that they can be? Yeah, you want a good life for 'em, but really, let's be honest. When you're in the grocery store and all of a sudden you're that parent who has those kids; you know what I'm talking about, ok, those of you who've been parents, I know you know what I'm talkin' about, where you're lookin' around and you're like, 'Oh man, yep, we're that family right now.' Ok. I have preschoolers right now. I'm there. Ok? Question—do you raise your family and your kids because you're concerned about how it reflects on you as a parent? Do you assess your kids' actions, their behaviors, their choices as a reflection of you as a parent, or are you concerned about how you are raising them because you are concerned about whether or not they will point people to God for His glory? Is it about you, or is it about God?

We'll go on to a second thing here. The heart that David displayed on the battlefield was discounted by those in leadership. In chapter 16, verse 11, this is a sad statement about David's life. It's also an amazing statement about his life, because the people in his life who should most have been calling him out and setting high expectations for him were actually doing just the opposite. Starts with his dad, Jesse. Samuel comes, and Jesse totally discounts David. He looks, in chapter 16:11, he says, 'Yeah, there's still one more, but he's the youngest. He's the littlest. He's the one...he's the little shepherd boy. He's the one that we send way out there because he's not worth your time.' That's basically what Jesse is saying. He discounts his son because his son is too young. Saul does the same thing. He looks at David in chapter 17 verse 33, and he says, 'You're not able to fight this guy. You're just a kid! You're just a youth.'

Here's an interesting thing...as we look at it as best we can tell from this passage and from other things in scripture and what we see, how many of you have...well...how 'bout this. Give it a little bit of interaction in just a second. But here's the thing. David at this point in time, as best we can tell, is somewhere between the ages of 14 and 16. That's an eighth grader to a tenth grader, people. How many of you have an eighth grader to a tenth grader in your house, or you've already had a child go through that point? Anybody? How many of you work with 'em? Ok? Now here's the thing—David is that age when he is storming the battle field as a little shepherd boy. That is why everyone looks at him and says, 'You can't do this! You're just a kid!' How many times have you heard that in our culture, and here in this church or in other churches? The question I'll ask you here, parents and leaders—are you hindering our youth? And youth, are you buying the lie? Our culture says 'You're just a kid; wait until your real life starts before you try and run hard after God and expect that He can do great things through you.' Are you waiting 'til your life begins after high school, after college, whatever? Parents, are you calling out the best in your kids for God's glory?

Think about this—why would God choose a young punk, eighth to tenth grader, to fight this battle? Well, let's see...if he was living today, what would stand out about, say, a fifteen year old, ok? He wouldn't have got his high school diploma or GED yet. He has no professional experience, no bank account, no professional training. He can't even drive a car, much less buy things like tobacco, alcohol, whatever. He can't rent a car. I mean, let's put it this way. To tell you the truth, legally we could not let him go on a youth trip nowadays without his parents' permission. Ok? And so is it any wonder that we look at it and we look at our students, and why is it that we look

at 'em oftentimes, and we say, 'well they're just a kid,' and we don't expect that they can even do something serious like maybe talk about God for five minutes. We look at it and we don't expect them to be able to share their faith with their friends because of peer pressure, much less charge a battlefield and take on a giant who's a Special Forces soldier, something like that. I don't know.

Parents, leaders, are you hindering your youth? Are you holding them back? And young people, are you buying the lie that God will not use you until you've started your real life after you have all the professional experience, training, whatever else you need? Here's a thought—the reason that God chooses young people like this is because He gets the glory. Nobody is going to expect some young punk to do anything amazing, much less charge a battlefield. See, if David was this amazing warrior, God wouldn't get the glory. That's why I really believe if you look throughout church history, every single revival, awakening, whatever, that I am aware of all starts among youth—every single one in all of church history.

Students, just before I move on I'm gonna give you this challenge. Our culture expects you to rebel. I'm going to say yes, rebel. But this is what I'll say rebel against—rebel against low expectations that people who don't believe in what God can do in you...rebel against the low expectations that they have for you, and what God can do through you. They don't believe in you, that's ok. You step up and you trust God, and you follow Him.

So here's what we're gonna do. We're gonna move on real quick. And we'll move through these real quickly. Basically, we see that the heart displayed on the battlefield was formed in the pastures. David...as he is working with Saul he tells him, "*Your servant used to keep sheep for his father.*" He says, 'Listen, I know about keepin' sheep. That's what I know. You're right, I'm not a big warrior. But I used to keep sheep, and I know that when the "lions and tigers and bears, oh my" would come to take away the sheep I would fight them. And God delivered me from them.' And he says, 'The LORD who delivered will turn around and he will deliver me now.' He looks at the situation and he says, 'This is some insurmountable obstacle that I don't have the answer for, but I know God has been faithful here, and so I will trust in His faithfulness that He is big enough to handle this problem, too.'

So the question I'd ask you is this—are you faithfully keeping your father's sheep? Here's why I say this and what I mean by this. David...he made a habit...he was given the job of keeping the sheep. He did it faithfully. He did it faithfully to the point where even when nobody's out there, I tell you what. If a bear comes to take a sheep from me, or a lion, and all I have is a little stick and a couple rocks, I'm probably going to say, 'Have a nice meal.' Ok, bon appétit. In fact, I'll say the blessing for you. There you go. And you can eat with my full blessing; have fun. David, not so much. He faithfully goes ahead and fights those bears, the lions, whatever comes. And in the process of faithfully serving in a mundane task, he learns the faithfulness of God. In the same way, where God has placed you, the scope of influence that He has given you...whether it's your workplace, your family, your friends, your home...are you faithfully serving what God has put on your plate to do, right here, right now?

See, we all long for the glory of the battlefield, so to speak. We long for the glory of those big moments where 'I'll be the person who comes through in a clinch', but we don't care to put in the faithful service in the pastures, doing the mundane, boring tasks of keeping our father's sheep, so to speak. And so we never gain the character or the trust in the faithfulness of God that is required to charge the battlefield for God's glory. Are you faithfully keeping your father's sheep?

We'll look at one more here before we wrap up. The heart displayed on the battlefield was proven in the streets. This actually jumps outside of this passage. I look at this, and this is not just something that David did on a few individual moments, ok? And this is not something that he did for his own fame. And it's further driven home by the fact that his heart for God's glory is proven in the streets. 2 Samuel 6 talks about this. There's...the Ark of the Covenant is being brought back to Jerusalem, and David is totally worshipping God with reckless abandon. He is dancing, he is singing, he is making an utter fool of himself. Ok? That's what's happening. In verses 20-22 what happens is Michal, his wife, looks out the window; she sees him coming in, and she says, 'He looks like a fool.' So of course, as soon as he walks through the door what's she do? She...and I can hear the sarcasm dripping off of this statement...she says, 'How the king of Israel has really honored himself today.' She says, 'You made a fool of yourself! What were you thinking?' And he turns around and he replies, 'What I was doing was before the LORD, and I will make merry before the LORD. In fact, I will make myself yet more contemptible than this. If that's what happens, if I look like a fool because I am honoring God as God, so be it. I'll get even more stupid and foolish than this. If people wanna think I'm foolish, that's fine.'

Here's the thing...I'd ask do you care more about worshipping God with all of your heart, or people's perceptions of you? Now, I'm going to restate this and rephrase it a couple times here because a lot of times what you may think...and I'll hit on this. In these four walls yes, when you come here do you look around and maybe you sing

more quietly? Or you're concerned about what people around you...I don't have the most amazing voice. Ok? If you sit next to me I don't...I'm not totally bad, but I don't have an amazing voice. But here's the thing—do I care more about what people think about my voice, or do I care about praising God? Where is my focus? If my focus is not on praising God, and I'm worried about what people think, and so I'll be more quiet or I'll be more reserved because, man, I just...there's a problem there.

But it goes beyond that. Because, see, worshipping is when you honor God as God. What happens when you take your faith into the streets, so to speak, into your family, into your friends, outside these walls—into the workplace, in school? Do you honor God as God? When opportunities arise for you to speak about the truth and the grace that is found in Christ, and Christ alone, do you worry more about what people are gonna think about you? About how it'll impact your job? About how people may perceive you? Or do you turn around and honor God as God with your mouth and with your life, with your thoughts...even if it may make you look foolish? Because that's what worshipping is—worshipping is not just when you sing. It's the entire way that you live, speak, think, behave, act...all of these things. So the question is, do you care more about what people think of you, or honoring God as God, as He is to be honored—in the workplace, in your family, in your friends. Which is it gonna be? Will you give witness to the reality of God and who He is? Of Jesus Christ, the Delivering King? Because here's the simple statement, simple reality—you're not ever going to be someone who's charging the battlefield, so to speak, men? Ok, maybe this speaks typically more to men. For me, I'm like "**Man! Yeah, I want...**" You're never going to be that person unless if you are willing to make a fool of yourself for God because the person you care most about pleasing and speaking the truth of is God, no matter what people think of you.

So I'm gonna ask you to go ahead and stand with me. And actually, that's how we're going to end this sermon here, this service, is basically we are going to close in prayer, asking God to give us the confidence in every circumstance, in every situation, to honor God as God, to speak of Him truthfully, of the one Delivering King who can save. So I ask you to sing with me.

[Congregation sings the prayer song.]

Go in God's grace. Thank you.