

Goliath of Gath: How to Beat a Bully

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. 1Sam. 17:1-54

1. One of the unfortunate realities of living is this world is the existence of bullies. There are some people, and we all know who they are in our lives, who clearly enjoy controlling and even hurting others around them
2. Bullying is not a new phenomenon. Bullies have existed in our world since Cain killed Abel at the dawn of the human race.

B. While bullying isn't a new phenomenon, it is a major problem.

1. Children deal with bullies every day at school.
 - a. The American Justice Department bullying statistics show that one out of every four kids will be bullied throughout their adolescence. Three of four children will experience serious bullying at least once.
 - b. 160,000 kids stay home from school each day because of fear of bullying. Half of teen suicides are precipitated by bullying
 - c. Then many of them come home to a bully.
2. People work with bullies on their jobs.
3. There are bullies among our neighbors.
4. There are bullies in the church.
5. Bullies inhabit every sphere of our lives.

C. Bullying is defined as, "the use of threats of coercion to intimidate others. It is the activity of repeated aggressive behavior intended to hurt another person, either physically or emotionally."

1. Bullying can include verbal harassment and threats, physical assaults, or the use of intimidation to force someone into doing your will. So, bullying is characterized by someone trying to gain power over others.
2. The word "bully" first appears in 1530, from an old Dutch word that meant "beloved, or brother"
3. The meaning degenerated over time to mean "a loud, swaggering person, a ruffian, a pimp, one who manipulated others by using threats and intimidation"

D. Defining characteristics of a bully:

1. Lacks empathy for others.
2. Feels the need to control others.
3. Easily angered
4. Habitually reminds others of their weaknesses.
5. Mocks and denigrates those who don't meet to his expectations.
6. Feeds on the fear of others.
7. Uses shame and physical aggression to intimidate and control.
8. Defies any who would challenge his power.

E. Who can be a bully?

1. They come in all shapes, sizes, colors, ages, and backgrounds.

2. Children, husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, elderly people, disabled folks, rich, poor, intelligent, uneducated, teens, preachers, elders, and teachers can be bullies.
 3. They are small-minded, evil-hearted, sociopathic people who want the power to control those who live around them.
- F. Satan is the ultimate bully
1. From fear, to anger, to temptation, to lust, he runs through the gamut of evil tactics to get us to bend to his twisted will
- G. Bullies do not have to be tolerated. They must not have their way.
1. Most bullies are cowards. In spite of their threats, bullies can be overcome by people who are willing to stand up for what is right.
- H. Goliath bullied God's people
1. If you had asked Israel about Goliath, they would have said, "This is a hopeless situation."
 2. If you had asked King Saul, he would have said, "There's nothing that can be done. We just have to live with it."
 3. If you had asked David, he would have said, "Goliath is a bully, and God is about to deal with him"

I. HOW THIS BULLY IS DESCRIBED

A. V. 1-4 - His Source

1. Goliath was a Philistine. The Philistines were one of the Canaanite tribes left over from Israel's conquest of the Promised Land. They were a powerful, warlike people known for their expert skill in metal working.
2. They worshipped the fish god Dagon. Goliath was a pagan idol worshiper. He was the enemy of Israel and God.

B. V. 4-7 - His Size

1. Goliath means "splendor"
2. He stood six cubits and a span - 9' 9" tall.
3. He wore copper-based armor that covered his body constructed from overlapping metal plates that resembled the scales of a fish. The armor weighed 5,000 shekels or about 200 pounds; with greaves and back shield 273 lbs.
4. His spear is compared to a weaver's beam which means it was 26 feet long. The head of his spear weighed 600 shekels of iron, which is about 24 pounds. Total weight 37.5 lbs.

C. V. 8-10, 16, 23 - His Statements

1. He mocks them and calls them cowards; demands that they send out a soldier to fight him, twice every day for forty days

D. V. 11, 24 - His Success

II. HOW THIS BULLY IS DEFINED

A. V. 25 - Some saw this bully as an opponent

1. Israel saw Goliath as a threat to their nation, peace, prosperity, and happiness.

2. When we are afraid or threatened, we circle the wagons and think only about how the unpleasant events of the moment are affecting us. We turn our focus inward and miss the bigger picture - Rom. 8:28-30
 3. No matter how much pain your bully causes in your life, it wasn't sent to destroy you - 1Cor. 10:13
- B. V. 25-30 - Some saw this bully as an opportunity
1. The king offered a reward: the man who kills the bully will get lots of money, he will marry the princess, and no longer have to pay taxes.
 2. David saw it as an opportunity to be of service to God

III. HOW THIS BULLY IS DEFEATED

- A. V. 31-37 - He is defeated by courage
1. In David's mind, this is a fixed fight; God will win even if Goliath is 20 feet tall with six arms
 2. It won't be easy to face the bullies in your life, but remember this:
 - a. The Lord has promised to be with you - Heb. 13:5.
 - b. The Lord had promised to see you through - Isa. 43:2-3
 - c. The Lord has promised to protect you - Isa. 54:17.
 - d. The Lord has promised to strengthen you - Phil. 4:13.
 - e. The Lord has promised to give you victory - Rom. 8:37.
 - f. The Lord has prepared us to handle our bullies - 2Tim. 1:7.
- B. V. 37-40 - He is defeated by conviction
1. Saul is a foot taller than anyone else in Israel - 1Sam. 9:2. His armor is not suited for David
 2. David was a shepherd accustomed to the tools of the shepherd
 3. God can use us and our abilities just as we are; we do not need other gifts or tools to win our battles
 4. So we are weak in our view; we are strong from Christ's perspective
 - a. 2Cor. 12:9
 5. We need to forget about what we have done, or what we think we can or cannot do, and place our faith in the God Who can - Eph. 3:20.
- C. V. 41-54 - He is defeated by confidence
1. What made this victory possible? It wasn't David's ability with a sling or his skill as a warrior.
 2. The secret to David's success and Goliath's death all came down to one word: faith. David believed God, and God gave David the victory.
 3. Mark 11:23-24; 1John 5:14-15
 4. It worked for David. It will work for you, too.

Conclusion:

- A. How about you? What are you going to do about your own oppressors?
1. Are you going to hide in your house and let bullies hold you hostage?
 2. Are you going to let them stand between you and the wonderful opportunities God has for you?
 3. Or, are you going to stand up to them like David did, with faith in the power of God, trusting Him to give you the victory?