



Goliath of Gath

How to Beat a Bully

1Sam. 17:1-54

How to Beat a Bully

- Children deal with bullies every day at school.
 - 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.
 - 160,000 kids stay home from school each day because of fear of bullying.
 - Half of teen suicides are precipitated by bullying
 - Then, many of them come home to a bully.

How to Beat a Bully

- 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.”
- 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.

How to Beat a Bully

- Defining characteristics of a bully:
 - Lacks empathy for others.
 - Feels the need to control others.
 - Easily angered
 - Habitually reminds others of their weaknesses.
 - Mocks and denigrates those who don't meet to his expectations.
 - Feeds on the fear of others.
 - Uses shame and physical aggression to intimidate and control.
 - Defies any who would challenge his power.

How to Beat a Bully

- Who can be a bully?
 - They come in all shapes, sizes, colors, ages, and backgrounds.
 - Children, husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, elderly people, disabled folks, rich, poor, intelligent, uneducated, teens, preachers, elders, and teachers can be bullies.
 - They are small-minded, evil-hearted, sociopathic people who want the power to control those who live around them

How to Beat a Bully

- Satan is the ultimate bully
 - 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
- Bullies do not have to be tolerated. They must not have their way.
 - 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.

How to Beat a Bully

- Goliath bullied God's people
 - If you had asked Israel about Goliath, they would have said, "This is a hopeless situation."
 - If you had asked King Saul, he would have said, "There's nothing that can be done. We just have to live with it."
 - If you had asked David, he would have said, "Goliath is a bully, and God is about to deal with him"

How This Bully Is Described

- V. 1-4 - His Source
 - Goliath was a Philistine. They worshipped the fish god Dagon.
 - Goliath was a pagan idol worshiper.
 - He was the enemy of Israel and God.

How This Bully Is Described

- V. 4-7 - His Size
 - Goliath means “splendor”
 - He stood six cubits and a span - 9’ 9” tall.
 - 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.
 - 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.

How This Bully Is Described

- V. 8-10, 16, 23 - His Statements
 - He mocks them and calls them cowards; demands that they send out a soldier to fight him, twice every day for forty days
- V. 11, 24 - His Success

How This Bully Is Defined

- V. 25 - Some saw this bully as an opponent
 - Israel saw Goliath as a threat to their nation, peace, prosperity, and happiness.
 - Rom. 8:28-29 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

How This Bully Is Defined

- No matter how much pain your bully causes in your life, it wasn't sent to destroy you
 - 1Cor. 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

How This Bully Is Defined

- V. 25-30 - Some saw this bully as an opportunity
 - 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.
 - David saw it as an opportunity to be of service to God

How This Bully Is Defeated

- V. 31-37 - He is defeated by courage
 - In David's mind, this is a fixed fight; God will win even if Goliath is 20 feet tall with six arms
- It won't be easy to face the bullies in your life, but remember this:

How This Bully Is Defeated

- The Lord has promised to be with you
 - Heb. 13:5 - “For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
- The Lord had promised to see you through
 - Isa. 43:2-3 - “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior”

How This Bully Is Defeated

- The Lord has promised to protect you
 - Isa. 54:17 - “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me, Says the LORD.”
- The Lord has promised to strengthen you
 - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

How This Bully Is Defeated

- The Lord has promised to give you victory
 - Rom. 8:37 - “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”
- The Lord has prepared us to handle our bullies
 - 2Tim. 1:7 - “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

How This Bully Is Defeated

- V. 37-40 - He is defeated by conviction
 - Saul is a foot taller than anyone else in Israel (1Sam. 9:2). His armor is not suited for David
 - David was a shepherd accustomed to the tools of the shepherd
- God can use us and our abilities just as we are; we do not need other gifts or tools to win our battles

How This Bully Is Defeated

- So we are weak in our view; we are strong from Christ's perspective
 - 2Cor. 12:9 - "And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
- 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 - "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us"

How This Bully Is Defeated

- V. 41-54 - He is defeated by confidence
 - What made this victory possible? It wasn't David's ability with a sling or his skill as a warrior.
 - 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.

How This Bully Is Defeated

- Mark 11:23-24 - “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”
- 1John 5:14-15 - “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”