SUNDAY HANDOUT FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION - Nov. 1

No Greater Concern (1 Samuel 17)

Personal reputations are seemingly sacred in our day. From the endless curating of images on social media to the fear of being ostracized or labeled, we're often consumed with what others think of us. But when someone you love is dishonored, none of that matters. You don't just sit there. You do something about it. In 1 Samuel 17, God's reputation and honor are being dragged through the mud by a beast of a man named Goliath. No one is doing anything about it until David enters the scene. What happens when God's honor is David's greatest concern and God's power his only confidence?

1. Paralyzing threats (1 Samuel 17:1-11)

2. No greater concern (1 Samuel 17:12-47)

3. No greater victory (1 Samuel 17:48-58)

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read 1 Samuel 17:1–11. What makes Goliath such a terrifying threat? What does Israel's response reveal about their confidence? When are you tempted to respond similarly?

2. Read 1 Samuel 17:12–47. David has just been anointed king (chapter 16). Why is that significant to understanding his role in this story?

3. What do David's first recorded words (v. 26) reveal about his greatest concern? How does his response differ from Saul's and Israel's?

4. What does it look like to care more about God's honor than your own reputation? Where might fear of rejection, misunderstanding or embarrassment keep you from doing so? How might this play out in your workplace or other everyday environments?

5. In verses 28–37, David faces discouragement from Eliab and Saul. What gives him confidence to move forward? How can remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen your faith today?

6. Re-read verses 45–47. What does David want everyone to know about the living God? How should these truths shape the way we face opposition, threats or callings beyond our ability?

7. Read 1 Samuel 17:48–58. How does David's victory as Israel's representative point us to Jesus, the Son of David, and his greater victory? Read Hebrews 2:14–15. What has Jesus accomplished for us that we could never accomplish for ourselves?

8. How does Jesus' victory free us from the need to protect our reputation and give us courage to live for God's honor? Where is he calling you to step out in faith?

Take a moment to consider where fear, concern for your reputation or feelings of inadequacy may be keeping you from faithfully following Jesus. Thank God for the victory Jesus has accomplished on your behalf and the approval you have in him. Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your confidence in God's faithfulness and power, giving you courage to live in a way that makes his name known and honored.

A coloring sheet is located below because what's a story about David and Goliath without one?


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