

Where Courage  
Comes From



<sup>4</sup> A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; <sup>6</sup> on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. <sup>7</sup> His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.

*Where Courage Comes From*



*Where Courage Comes From*

"His height was six cubits and a span..."

“His height was six cubits and a span...”

“He wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels..”

"His height was six cubits and a span..."

"He wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels.."

The "iron point" of his spear weighed "six hundred shekels..."

<sup>8</sup> Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

<sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." <sup>11</sup> On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

*Where Courage Comes From*

Goliath has a proposition: send out your best man.



Goliath has a proposition: send out your best man.

Goliath is also “defying the armies of Israel.”



Goliath has a proposition: send out your best man.

Goliath is also “defying the armies of Israel.”

Saul and all the Israelites were “dismayed and terrified.”



*Where Courage Comes From*



<sup>25</sup> Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel."

<sup>26</sup> David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" <sup>27</sup> They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

*Where Courage Comes From*

We are all a messy mixture of motivations!



<sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

<sup>33</sup> Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth." <sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

<sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

<sup>37</sup> The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

*Where Courage Comes From*



*Where Courage Comes From*

David's courage is immediately met with critique and doubt!

David's courage is immediately met with critique and doubt!

Some of the depth behind David's courage: his previous experiences in defending his flock against dangerous predators.

David's courage is immediately met with critique and doubt!

Some of the depth behind David's courage: his previous experiences in defending his flock against dangerous predators.

"The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear."

<sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. <sup>42</sup> He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

<sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

<sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." <sup>48</sup> As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

<sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. <sup>51</sup> David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

## *Where Courage Comes From*

Goliath had every visible advantage. Size. Strength. Elaborate armor and crushing weaponry. But, David knew the God who watched over him in the fields with the flock was bigger and stronger.



## 1 Samuel 17:38-40

*Where Courage Comes From*

<sup>38</sup> Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. <sup>39</sup> David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. <sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

*Where Courage Comes From*

Would David had been able to successfully sling a stone if he had been wearing Saul's armor?



*Where Courage Comes From*

David knew who he was. And he knew who God is. That combination is incredibly powerful.

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## *Where Courage Comes From*

It is David's existing and deeply rooted trust in the God who has shepherded him that gives him the courage, confidence, and conviction to face the giant who speaks defiantly against the God he loves.

## Closing Reflections

*Where Courage Comes From*

Are you dealing with something intimidating or insulting in your life? How are you approaching that situation?

## Closing Reflections

*Where Courage Comes From*

Looking back, what past experiences can you be thankful for because you know that the Lord brought you through them and used them for His glory later?

## Closing Reflections

*Where Courage Comes From*

In what ways are you tempted to “put on someone else’s armor” instead of just being the person God has made you to be?

## Closing Reflections

*Where Courage Comes From*

What blessing of following the Good Shepherd are you most thankful for today?

Where Courage  
Comes From

