

Title: David, Chosen for His Pre-existing Bravery

Main Text: Hebrews 11:32-33

Sermon: Pastor Caleb

Peace be with you. Greetings in the name of the Lord. Today's scripture is from Hebrews 11:32-33.

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,

33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,

Today, I'd like to delve into the life of David. Over the next three sessions, I'll explore various aspects, beginning with the theme of "David, Chosen for His Pre-existing Bravery."

In the case of Gideon, while Gideon's genealogy initially associated him with the tribe of Israel, as stated in Judges 6:15b, he actually belonged to the tribe of Manasseh. Manasseh became one of the twelve tribes through Joseph, one of the original sons of Jacob. Gideon was specifically the son of Joash from the tribe of Manasseh, and he was the weakest among Joash's sons. Furthermore, Gideon, as indicated in Judges 6:11b, was a timid individual who threshed wheat in a winepress, fearing detection by the Midianites. David, on the other hand, was different from Gideon. He had to be different because he foreshadowed Jesus Christ, who would come as a king.

The Bible chronicles David's life from his youth, revealing his inherent courage even at a young age. When he confronted Goliath, it becomes evident that David approached the situation as a naturally brave individual. In other words, David did not suddenly become courageous by the spirit of the Lord when he faced Goliath. He had been courageous from the beginning.

Unlike what God said to Gideon in Judges 6:16, to Barak in Judges 4:14, or to Jephthah in Judges 11:32, God did not say something like, "I will deliver them into your hands" to David. More precisely, God did not say to David, "I will deliver Goliath into your hands." Additionally, David interpreted the words of God differently from others when God said, "I will deliver such and such into your hands." When receiving the divine command "I will deliver into your hands," David understood it uniquely compared to others. David

perceived this phrase as him being entrusted with the task, or being assigned to handle the matter.

Many people interpreted God's words, "I will deliver into your hands," as "I will make you victorious" or "I will give this to you." However, David did not receive it in such a way. According to David's interpretation, God's statement was a command for him to resolve the issue himself. David understood the phrase "I will deliver into your hands" as God instructing him to handle the matter. This is the correct interpretation.

Samuel 17:33 states, "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.'" Contrary to what most would expect, David did not respond with the common sentiment we might anticipate, such as, "O king, what are you saying? What does it matter that I am a youth and Goliath is a giant warrior? God will grant victory. I believe that God will make me triumph." David did not think in such terms.

Verse 34: "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,," Verse 35: "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." Verse 36: "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."

What is David saying? Isn't David expressing that he can defeat Goliath and the Philistines through his own abilities, skills, and methods? It is about what he has. What David said to Saul was a fact. Examining David at that time reveals that his perspective, when he asserted that he could defeat Goliath much like he had conquered lions and bears, was both objective and accurate. David, already possessing courage and capability, did not need a sudden infusion of bravery or skill from the Spirit of the Lord to overcome Goliath. He was already a courageous individual. Therefore, when he said he could handle fighting Goliath, it meant that he was willing to take on the challenge himself. Yes, when David assessed his abilities, he believed that fighting with what he had would undoubtedly lead to victory over Goliath.

David's well-known act of slinging a stone at Goliath's forehead was not the result of some miraculous intervention from heaven at that very moment. It wasn't a sudden miracle. For David, there was a well-established and confident skill set that he had cultivated over time. This explanation is an objective and accurate interpretation of the

event in the Bible. Perhaps, David's slinging strategy was the sole and crucial tactic to bring down Goliath.

Looking at 1 Samuel 17:41, it can be observed that when Goliath approached David, a shield-bearer was positioned in front of him. In the latter part of verse 45, Goliath was armed with a sword, a spear, and a javelin. Given Goliath's heavily armed state and the presence of a shield-bearer, his mobility would have been relatively restricted. In verse 48, David swiftly ran toward the less agile Goliath. Opting to maintain some distance from Goliath, David, in his rapid approach, found the gap in Goliath's helmet and attacked his forehead using a well-practiced sling with a stone, a superior choice over spear, sword, or bow in this situation. That was the best option available.

During his time tending sheep, whenever a predator attacked his flock, David would swiftly pursue and skillfully use his sling to bring down the marauding beast, which posed a threat to his lambs. David had developed the ability to skillfully shoot stones like arrows, effectively bringing down such creatures each time. In this way, David had acquired the competence to rescue his sheep. Therefore, for David, the sling attack was the best strategy and tactic for defeating Goliath.

So, how did this young David come to know and establish that this strategy and tactic would work, leading him to bring the necessary tools with him from his workplace when he came to the battlefield for his father's errand? Although David came to the battlefield for his father's errand, the content of the errand and his actions were different. As seen in verse 40, even upon arriving at the battlefield and meeting his brothers, David already had his shepherd's staff and sling with him. Therefore, it becomes evident that for David, the errand itself was not the primary purpose; he had thoroughly planned and arrived at the battlefield calculatingly with a different mindset. Exactly. It is evident that his tactics were not created spontaneously upon arriving at the battlefield due to immediate inspiration; rather, they were carefully thought out and devised over a long period of time before coming to the battlefield.

In 1 Samuel 17:15, it is mentioned that David, while tending his father's sheep in Bethlehem, frequently traveled between the battlefield where Saul and his brothers were and his workplace. Due to his young age, David remained unharmed, as he did not appear to pose a threat to the Philistines. During these visits, as recorded in 1 Samuel 17:5-6, David observed Goliath, the giant, who was always wearing a bronze helmet; scales of armor; and bronze greaves on his legs. Goliath, a giant standing six cubits and a span tall, always had a shield-bearer accompanying him when he appeared,

shouting challenges to the Israelite king and people morning and evening. David had the opportunity to witness Goliath's appearance and behavior, along with the presence of the shield-bearer, during his frequent trips between the sheepfold and the battlefield for 40 days.

David carefully examined Goliath's helmet, observed how Goliath wore his armor, and thoroughly understood the tactical approach he needed to use to strike Goliath's head with a sling. David even accurately assessed Goliath's height and diligently practiced his strategy, ensuring that he was well-prepared for the battle. As a result, he devised an unbeatable strategy to defeat Goliath.

David, utilizing his inherent skills, accurately gauged the height of the Philistine giant Goliath's forehead and understood the space available in the helmet Goliath wore where a sling-launched stone could strike. Armed with his pre-existing abilities, David devised a sling strategy that could defeat Goliath and came to the battlefield with his shepherd's tools ready. Truly, wasn't this young David remarkably strategic and extraordinary? He was not an ordinary youth by any means.

What am I trying to convey today? David was inherently intelligent from birth. As he grew, he developed strength and acquired many skills, making him an exceptional individual when he faced Goliath. David, with his abilities, could overcome the challenges that Israel was facing. That's why the tactical strategies he devised were extraordinary.

David's actions were not a result of divine commandments like "do this" or "do that." The young David was an exceptionally gifted child from birth, and that's why God chose him. It's a different case from the familiar scenario where someone, despite being ordinary, becomes an extraordinary person with faith and God-given abilities through anointing.

Moreover, David faced the formidable Goliath and the Philistine army, which even the combined efforts of all Israel and King Saul could not withstand. King Saul and the Israelites remained fearful of Goliath. Despite his youth, however, David displayed a courage that surpassed the collective bravery of King Saul, his entire army, and the people of Israel. Therefore, David is truly a fitting figure to foreshadow Jesus Christ who was to come to this world as a King and who is one with Father God in power and wisdom.

However, why did David say this in verse 37? "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." David is expressing that during his time as a shepherd, it was God who delivered him from the claws of the lion and the bear, not his own strength and ability. Additionally, he asserts that in the face of the Philistine Goliath, it will be the power of the LORD, not his courage, skills, or abilities, that will save him and Israel. Why did David say this?

David spoke and believed in this manner for the following reasons. He believed that he did not belong to himself but to God. David believed that him being born strong; going through various training as a shepherd; and becoming skilled with the sling and stones were all possible because God had ordained it from the beginning. David believed that he was born according to God's will and that his abilities were made possible by God. Therefore, David knew and firmly believed that all his knowledge and abilities, everything he possessed, belonged to God. Therefore, although David was preparing to face Goliath with his own abilities and skills, he declared, "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."

Furthermore, because David firmly believed that everything he owned belonged to God, he did not use his faith for personal gain in the typical way people do. Instead, when an opportunity arose for the glory of God, David willingly offered himself for the benefit of God. He believed it was only fitting and natural to present himself to God in such a manner. Why? Because David believed that he belonged to God. Therefore, if God intended to use him for His glory, David naturally believed he should offer himself to God.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, today we reflected on the theme that David was chosen and anointed because he was already a courageous individual. In our present times, many people believe that their skills and abilities are their own. They seek Your power to add more to what they already have to enhance and promote themselves, striving for greater fame, wealth, and prowess.

However, David believed that all his abilities and skills belonged to You, God. He believed even his journey to becoming a courageous person through various training processes was made possible by You. Therefore, David knew that if his abilities were

needed for Your glory, he should naturally and willingly be used. David understood that even if You, God, didn't explicitly say, "I will deliver them into your hands," when his abilities were required for Your glory, he should still automatically dedicate himself for Your work. Today, we learn from David's example of selfless dedication for the sake of Your glory, God.

David believed that when You, God, said, "I will deliver so and so or certain countries in your hands," it meant that the task was entrusted to him, and he should handle Your command with his own abilities. This shows David's high level of faith.

Oh, Lord, help us understand that You do not usually entrust to us tasks beyond our capabilities. May we diligently learn and practice not for our sake but to be better instruments for Your greater purposes. Just as David, being an outstanding individual, was used by You, may we also become exceptional individuals used by You, God.

Oh, Lord, we offer everything we have to You. Use it whenever You need. We believe that we are born to be used by You, rather than You existing for our use. Oh, Lord, receive us. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen, amen.



