



Sermon, Sunday October 30, 2022

“The Lord will Rescue Us from Our Severe Trial”

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 17:31-40 ³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. ³² David said to Saul, “Let no one’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” ³³ Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” ³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father, and whenever a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth, and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ David said, “The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.” So Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you!” ³⁸ Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹ David strapped Saul’s sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these, for I am not used to them.” So David removed them. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in his shepherd’s bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

Introduction: Fear - a crucial reason we forget to trust in the Lord

During last week’s Worship service, I shared my joy with you about how my 16-year-old daughter Seo-Jin has been selected as a member of the Iowa All-State Orchestra. Seo-Jin had auditioned at Indianola high school to participate. When I dropped off my daughter at the audition she asked me, “How do you cope when you are afraid and trembling before exams and auditions?” I guess that she was nervous before the audition. So, I told my daughter that everyone is nervous before exams and auditions. And I told her not to worry too much about the result and enjoy the audition. I also told her the Bible story about the spies, Joshua and Caleb.

I told my daughter to think like Joshua and Caleb that the judges at the audition are only helpless prey. Later, she told me that my advice worked for her.

We can experience the wonders of the Lord when we cast out our fears and fully depend on Him in power. But the evil spirits of the world (the devil) make us fear and give up our trust in the Lord. The devil creates problems in our lives and gives us fear. If we fall into the temptations of the devil and lose trust in the Lord because of fear, we cannot experience the power of the Lord.

Today's text is set in the camp of the Israeli army during a war against the Philistines. The Israelites are in great fear because of the Philistine army and the great general, Goliath. Israel's leader, King Saul, promises to give wealth and honor to those who kill Goliath. But Goliath was greatly feared so no one in Israel's camp would fight him. But David, a young shepherd of about 17-18 years old, was sent by his father to take food to his brothers in the war, was different. He overcame his fear of Goliath and was able to use his talents to defeat him. Through the story of David and Goliath that we know well today, let's think about how David was able to overcome fear and grow in faith.



Body: What the Lord is doing and what we must do

The Bible says in 2 Chronicles 20:15, “For the battle is not yours, but God's.” This verse is the Lord's words of comfort to the people of Israel who are afraid because of the war between Moab and Ammon. Please do not misunderstand that the Lord is a God who loves fighting and does not love other nations except Israel because of this verse. The Lord loves the Church and loves all creation outside the Church. Also, the Lord wants peace rather than war. But the Lord himself fights the evil of the world for the sake of “the kingdom of God” and to accomplish the will of God the Father.

However, in our religious life, we misunderstand the saying, “For the battle is not yours, but God's.” Regarding today's text, if we have faith, like David, we should be able to go directly to battle to fight the giant Goliath and defeat Goliath in the name of the Lord of hosts. If we have faith, that belief must be demonstrated by our actions.

We must be instruments of the Lord fighting for us, able to fight the evils of the world by faith. David in today's text becomes the Lord's instrument and fights against the evils of the world with faith. So, how could David become an instrument of the Lord to confront Goliath?

First, David had passion and trust for the Lord.

David had a holy fervor as he saw the Israelites, whom the Lord had chosen, humiliated by the Philistines (v. 26). David's battle with Goliath was not motivated by heroism, nor by the reward Saul had promised. David overcame his fears with love for the Lord and went to the battlefield to fight Goliath.

David also trusted in the power of the Lord. In fact, it is close to impossible for David, a young person with no experience in warfare to win against Goliath, a large Philistine general who has a lot of experience in fighting objectively. But David trusted in the Lord's ability to use him, not in objective circumstances. David's trust in the Lord stemmed from his experience of the living God.

He trusted the Lord who rescued him from the dangers of lions and bears while working as a shepherd and tending sheep and goats. We must realize that the power of faith does not appear suddenly but is matured through daily training.

So, the deeper we experience the Lord with us in our daily lives, the better we can overcome a crisis. Therefore, we must cultivate passion and trust for the Lord by praying, reading the Bible, meditating, and building virtue for our neighbors in our ordinary daily lives. Then, how could David become an instrument of the Lord to confront Goliath?

Second, David had the wisdom to distinguish what he was good at and what he was not good at.

In today's text, King Saul gives his bronze helmet, armor, and sword for David who is going to fight Goliath. (V.38) But David discovers that Saul's bronze helmet, armor, and sword are not familiar to him. So, David uses as a weapon what he is familiar with and is good at. David uses the sling and stones that protected him from the dangers of lions and bears as tools to fight Goliath.

As we live our faith, we know where our talents lie. Those who are gifted with musical instruments experience the presence of the Lord by playing instruments such as piano, violin, cello, clarinet, flute, and drums. Also, those with beautiful voices praise the Lord and have fellowship with the Lord. Those who like to clean, do the dishes, and throw away the trash and meet the Lord deeply in the process of doing these things. Furthermore, those who are gifted in landscaping and gardening communicate with the Lord through these works. In this way, there are various ways in which we communicate with the Lord.



That is why we need to make good use of our gifts to have a deep fellowship with the Lord and to experience the riches that the Lord provides. Sometimes we don't realize it, but the Lord has given everyone the gift of deep communication with Him. The gifts we have are very useful for communicating with the Lord and serving our community. So, we should not be greedy or envious of the gifts or talents of others. Like David in today's text, we need the wisdom to give up on something that is not familiar or suitable for us and use the gifts the Lord has given us.

Conclusion: The Lord will rescue us from our severe trial.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Today's verse shows us what to rely on when we face a crisis in life and face important life decisions. Even during a crisis, David relied on the Lord he met in his daily life and acted in the way he normally had fellowship with the Lord.

The power of faith does not manifest itself in our lives at any one moment in time. It is the result of a build-up of passion and trust in the Lord, and of our efforts to make good use of the gifts the Lord has given us in our daily lives.

Like David, we must develop passion and trust for the Lord. In addition, we must use the gifts that the Lord has given us in our daily life as a means of communication with the Lord.

We are saved by the grace and faith of the Lord. The richness of the life of faith is experienced when we desire to be used as instruments of the Lord fighting for us. We must be prepared for this. The Lord fights for such people and rescues them from severe trial. May we experience this wonderful blessing that the Lord has given us.

