

**Date:** 20.09.2020

**Time:** 6pm

**Service taken by:** Rev Gavino Fioretti

**Psalm:** Psalm 100 and Psalm 126 (Scottish Psalter)

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 17

**Text:** 1 Samuel 17:46-47

**Outline: Famous deliverance**

a) Introduction

1. God's people

2. God's enemies

3. God's salvation

4. God's anointed

### Famous deliverance

- Introduction

Often we interpret the story of David and Goliath in the wrong way; we see ourselves as David in the story who can defeat any giants in our lives. There is a lot more to the story than this interpretation implies.

#### 1) God's people

**At war:** The people of Israel had many enemies and were often at war. War was a regular occurrence for the people of God. There was a constant pressure from outside to conquer the land that the Israelites were in. What fear this must have brought. What constant pressure. What little peace.

**Defied:** The Israelites were challenged, they were defied, they were mocked. They were challenged by the Philistines and no-one was willing to face the giant, Goliath – it would have meant death to the man who faced him and slavery for the people.

**Afraid:** The people of Israel were afraid, they were dismayed. But before we think of the Israelites as being unfaithful, fearful people, consider how we would feel. They had an enemy much stronger than they, an enemy better equipped than they, led by a giant. As God's people, we're in a spiritual war. We're under pressure. We're challenged. We're often afraid – in fear of the devil, in fear of attack. At times, we can be unaware of the heat of the battle, but we're reminded of the war within

us when we sin repeatedly and feel like giving up. There are consequences of sin. There are consequences of war. We feel weary and tired in the battle and long for peace. We're called to keep going in the battle.

## **2) God's enemies**

**Relentless:** The Philistines were constantly at war with the Israelites – they tried again and again to wear them down. They relentlessly sought for a reason to fight. Goliath challenged the people to a fight every day for forty days.

**Powerful:** The Philistines were powerful. They had heavy weapons. They were well-equipped. They were led by a giant who was humanly speaking invincible. A reward was offered by the king for any man who would take on Goliath, but no-one was willing, but David.

**Offensive:** Goliath was offensive. He mocked. He cursed David. For Goliath, Israel was the object of his mockery. There is a relentlessness in the devil, in our sin, in our own hearts. Every day, we're to fight temptation. There's not a day that goes by when sin doesn't knock on the door of our heart. We're in a battle; we're soldiers in God's army. Having a better awareness of the circumstances we're in allows us to be better-equipped for the battle.

## **3) God's salvation**

**Unexpected:** God raised a young man, an unlikely man who God would use to save His people. David was aware that the battle belongs to the Lord – the only way for victory was for God to fight. It wasn't David or his sling that defeated Goliath – it was God. This deliverance was unexpected; there was no deliverance in sight for the people – only David had been assured that God would bring victory.

**Complete:** God granted all that Israel needed – the people were taken from a place of fear to a place of peace and prosperity. God doesn't save us 50%, but He saves us 100%. God's salvation is full and complete. When He forgives us, He forgives all our sin (past, present and future). He'll fulfil what He's started.

**Revealing:** One day, all will know that God is the only true God. He makes Himself known and reveals His glory. There is no-one before or beside Him –surrender yourself to the one, true God. We enjoy deliverance, adoption, forgiveness of sin in our salvation and in all of this, God is making Himself known. The most powerful way for God to glorify Himself is that God saves sinners.

## **4) God's anointed**

**Unlikely:** David was an unlikely candidate for the role of delivering Israel from their enemies. No-one meeting him thought that he was a great man. He was just another young man. His brothers, and the soldiers didn't think much of him, but he was the one chosen.

**Despised:** He was mocked by those about him; his family, the Israelite army, Goliath. He was despised by his own people and his enemies, but still he trusted God.

**Trusting:** David was a man of faith. He was not assured of his own strength, but in God's strength.

**Zealous:** David was zealous for God's people and God's name.

**Victorious:** David triumphed and led his people into battle.

We're not called to be like David in this – David gives us a picture of Christ. There was nothing special in Jesus' appearance. His own people, even his own family thought He was mad and despised Him. He was God's chosen One. David was sent to save people who didn't trust him, but despised him. Jesus' name is used for everything but in worship by so many. Jesus had faith – He was God but He was also 100% man – He committed Himself into God's hand. He trusted God even in the darkest hour when He cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus was zealous – He loved, wept over, beseeched, healed and did all He could to gather people under His wings. Jesus was zealous for the purity of God's house. David's deliverance of the people was wonderful, but temporary, but Jesus' deliverance was full, perfect, complete and eternal. The glorious day when David defeated Goliath reminds us of our glorious salvation.