

David's Size

Ending the Excuses That Enslave

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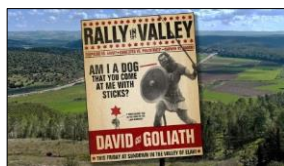
Today we're ending the excuses that enslave us to stop us from serving heroically!



So, **who told David to fight Goliath?** It's not in the story. He's just taking cheese to his brothers' battalion. (1 Sam 17:18) When Samuel *anointed* him, he said *nothing* about *giants*. (16:13) His *brother* tells him to *get lost*. (17:28) And King Saul tries to *talk* him out of it. (17:33) So **how'd he know God was calling him?** Cuz (don't *hate* the answer), **it needed getting done, and no one else was doing it.** You see, whenever you see something you *know* God wants done, and *nobody's* doing it, and you *know* you could ... *guess what!* **Ring-ring!** Guess *who!* **God may call several times a day to ask you to serve in some way.** And when He does, you can just **let it keep ringing**, which'll cause *anxiety*; or **hang up real fast**, and *quickly* put it out of *mind*; or **put Him on hold ... indefinitely**; or **spring into service** like the *loyal slave* you are. "I'm a slave?"

Do you *not* know ... you are *that* one's slaves whom you *obey*, whether **[slaves]** of *sin* leading to *death*, or **[slaves]** of *obedience* leading to *righteousness*? But ... though you were *slaves of sin*, yet you *obeyed* from the *heart* ... and having been set free from **[slavery to]** *sin*, you became *slaves of righteousness*. – Romans 6:16-18 NKJ

And slaves are on call 24/7. Whenever someone says, **"You know what the church should do?"** I love to say: **With the vision comes the anointing.** That *shuts 'em up!* But **if not you, who?** Think of how many *legitimate* excuses li'l David *could've* made. "I came to *deliver* cheese, not *Israel*. I'm not a *soldier*. I'm not *trained*. Saul's *armor's* way too *big*. God didn't *command* it. Let *Saul*, he's over 7' tall, and (as *Psalm 119:141* says), 'I'm *small* and *despised*,' and *that hulk* is *literally* a *giant!* And *Saul himself* said, 'You are a *youth*, [David was 15, *give* or *take*] and *he* a *man of war* from his *youth*.'" **So what's your excuse?** Cuz we only have *two* as you'll see. And **every lie-de-jour** that we tell *ourselves* or *others*, however *original*, **is sin that we're serving rather than defeating.**



My *family* moved into what is *now* the youth house when I was *two*. That's *me* with the *ball*. And a couple years later, I *decided* it was more *expedient* to just *do #2* in the *yard*. Which did *not* go over too *well*. *Threats* and *warnings* were *made*. But *sure* enough, I *doed* it *again*. So *pops* *marched* me to my *pile of sin* and asked if I *did* it. I said *no*. He asked, *who did*. I said, *a dog*. He asked, what *kind of dog?* And *realizing* our *backyard* had a *tall fence*, I said, "A *circus dog!*" I can't *tell* you how *proud* I was of *coming up* with a *dog* that's *known* for jumping over things! But *Pops* *saw* right *through*, and I got my *just due*, not *only* for the *#2*, but even *more so* for **the excuse** – which was an *outright lie* – which, *turns out*, **was a far worse crime.** And **every dishonest excuse, no matter how cunningly and craftily we deceive ourselves, is more or less like that circus dog, in our Father's eyes.**



It might make sense to *you*; but *Jesus* sees right *through*. And **we don't get to dictate when or where we'll be obedient**. Cuz whatever you're doing, it's never only about delivering cheeses! **It's always also about displaying Jesus**. So, when that *call* comes, we can either **#1 ... obey**, or **#2**. So what'll you do? **Defy? Delay? Or obey?** What's your preferred excuse of the two? **Do you think Jesus came to simply remove our burdens?** No. That's only the *half* of it. **He came to trade our burden of sin for His burden of truth**. Cuz truth is a *burden*. Just ask *Isaiah*, (13:1) *Nahum*, (1:1) *Habakkuk*, (1:1) or *Malachi*, who were each told to convey:

The burden of the Word of the Lord – Malachi 1:1 NKJ

Because, **He yokes, or collars, us as slaves to truth**; and saddles us with the burden of proof.

For the Lord of hosts [writes Zechariah, 500 years before Jesus] will visit His flock ... and will make [His sheep] [also] as His royal horse in the battle. – Zechariah 10:3 NKJ

[So] When you go to battle against those who hate you and see more horses and war-wagons and soldiers than you have, do not be afraid of them. For the Lord your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt, is with you. – Deuteronomy 20:1 NLT

[Now I] remind you ... that Jesus ... saved a people out of the land of Egypt – Jude 1:5 LSB

[And] Today you are going into battle against those who hate you. [So] Do not let your hearts become weak. ... For the Lord your God is the One who goes with you. He will fight for you against those who hate you. And He will save you. – Deuteronomy 20:3-4 NLT

I will instruct you [writes David] and teach you in the way you should go ... [so] Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. – Psalm 32:8-9 NIV

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke [of ownership] upon you [around your neck] and learn from Me, [as your Master] for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” – Matthew 11:28-29 NIV

Bind [mercy and truth] around your neck ... [and] Trust in the Lord with all your heart ... In all your ways acknowledge Him, and [then] He shall direct your paths. ... [for] [wisdom and discretion] will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. – Proverbs 3:3-22 NKJ

“For My yoke is pleasant, and My burden is light.” – Matthew 11:30 ISV



Not that it *isn't* heavy, but that **He'll equip and empower and inspire and strengthen us** to bear it; if and when we submit and learn from Him.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory – 2 Corinthians 4:17 NKJ

Now, many Bible translations tell us that:

David was the **youngest**. – 1 Samuel 17:14 NIV

But that word is **also translated as: *smallest***. So which is it? Youngest or smallest? A scholarly dive into word usage and immediate context will conclude “youngest”. But a childlike trust that God’s Word is perfect, while playing seek-and-find with the story pieces, will reveal that ... well, I’ll let you decide: “Jesse had **eight sons**” (1 Sam 17:12) (feel free to use your fingers); “Jesse’s first son was Eliab ... and his **seventh** was David.” (1 Chr 2:13-15) Therefore: “David was the [**youngest** or **smallest**].”¹ Circle one! Cuz **once you see it, his entire story changes!** Because, as Samuel well knew:

[No] man who has a defect ... or a dwarf [i.e. abnormally small] ... shall come near to offer the offerings ... [the altar’s too tall, so] he shall not come near. – Leviticus 21:17-21 NKJ

[But] The Lord said to Samuel ... “I am sending you to Jesse ... Take a heifer ... and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ [And] Invite Jesse to the sacrifice” [So] ... When he arrived ... [he said] “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord ... come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and [only 7 of] his [8] sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, [without the smallest] Samuel saw Eliab [the most favored firstborn] and ... [the Lord said] “Do NOT consider his appearance [which can mean favored status or good looks] or his height ... Jesse had seven of his [8 favored] sons pass [by] ... So [Samuel] asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the [smallest]” [who was forbidden to come] ... So he sent and had him brought in. [And] He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. – 1 Samuel 16:1-13 NIV

Solve this: Samuel does NOT consider appearance. But, appearance can mean “favored status” or “handsome features”. And Samuel DOES consider “handsome features”. So it’s not that. Which means Samuel was warned to ignore favored status and height. So, why would Jesse, a godly man, include his youngest but exclude his smallest at the sacrifice, even after the others were rejected? He was honoring God’s Word. How? I call Psalm 119 to the stand again, to testify that:



“I am **small** and **despised**.” – Psalm 119:141 NKJ

He’s the runt! Not by age, but by despised size! Average height in David’s day was 5’ 5”. So **how small is small enough, to be disdained enough, to be excluded?** Peter Dinklage is 4’ 5”. Is that small enough to make all the pieces make sense? Like why God had to command Samuel to not consider favored status and height? **Many conclude the restriction applied to those under 4’!** Picture that! But, unlike every other taller, more favored brother:

[God] testified ... “I have found [dinky] David [the small and despised, 7th] son of Jesse a **man after My own heart**; [cuz] he will do everything I want him to do.” – Acts 13:22 NIV

Like taking on giants without making excuses! And, do you see how it says that **God’s heart is like a servant’s heart!** Remember when the angel said to Mary, that:

[Jesus] will be **great** and ... God will give Him the throne of David – Luke 1:32 NAB

[Why? Because] “The **greatest** among you will be your servant.” – Matthew 23:11 NIV

And it is this godly servant-nature that the Lord saw when He said:

I have found **David My servant** – Psalm 89:20 NIV

¹ More on David’s birth order at: www.Christianity.com/wiki/bible/how-old-was-david-when-he-killed-goliath.html

I have sworn to David My servant – Psalm 89:3 NIV

By My servant David I will *rescue* My people Israel – 2 Samuel 3:18 NIV

[And] I will place over them *one shepherd*, My servant David – Ezekiel 34:23-24 NIV

And then God gave their *shared* Son, *Jesus*, David's *throne* and *authority* and *calling*. And:

He himself bore [the *burden* of] our *sins* ... so that, *free* from *sin*, we might *live* for *righteousness*. ... [For] the *Shepherd* and *Guardian* of your *souls*. – 1 Peter 2:24-25 NAB

For *even* the *Son* of *Man* did not *come* to *be* served, but to *serve* – Mark 10:45 NIV

[So] Your *attitude* [your *heart*] should be the *same* as [Jesus] ... who, being in *very nature* God ... [took on] the *very nature* of a *servant* – Philippians 2:5-7 NIV

So we should be *using* our *light afflictions* to *allow* *Jesus* to *strengthen* us to handle the *full weight* of *glory*! Because, **excuses don't solve problems, they waste 'em!** Whatcha wanna *bet* that *being* the *runt* is the *very means* by which *God* *prepared* *David* to take on *Goliath*? "Everyone's a *giant* to *me*." Just as *Paul* proclaims: His *strength* is *perfected* in our *weakness*! (2 Cor 12:9) So *whatever* you do, **don't lean on Jesus as an excuse to stay weak.** He's our *Savior* and *Teacher* and *Trainer*.

[So] Cast your *burden* on the *Lord* – Psalm 55:22 NKJ

[Cuz, get *this*] You *are* the *burden* ... for the *burden* is everyone's *own word* ... [when] you *pervert* the *words* of the *living* *God* [by *action* or *inaction*] – Jeremiah 23:33-36 NRS

For my *iniquities* are ... a *heavy* *burden* they *weigh* too *much* for *me*. – Psalm 38:4 NAS

[But] He gives *strength* to the *weary* and ... power [to] the *weak*. – Isaiah 40:29 NIV

[So] Do not *fear*, for I *am* with you ... I *will* *strengthen* you and *help* you – Isaiah 41:10 NIV

Not by *removing* our *troubles*, but by *using* them to *strengthen* and *empower* us. That's *why*:

I can do *all* things *through* *Christ* who *strengthens* me. – Philippians 4:12-13 NKJ

[It's] To *this* you were *called*, [ring-ring] because *Christ* *suffered* for you, *leaving* you an *example*, that you should *follow* in His *steps*. – 1 Peter 2:21 NIV

[Cuz, get *this*] Whoever *claims* to live in Him *must* walk as *Jesus* did. – 1 John 2:6 NIV

Which means, **we accuse ourselves when we excuse ourselves.** Because **we're not called to an easy life, but a powerful life** – where the *small* and *despised* run *toward* their *giants*! So don't seek the *enslavement* of *comfort*. **True rest comes from trust;** and **trust comes from acting on truth.** No *excuse*! **We can't take up His yoke without giving up ours.** Cuz it's only *offered* as a *trade*.

[And] *Blessed* are those who *do* His *commandments* ... But *outside* are [all those *circus*] *dogs* ... and *whoever* loves and *practices* a *lie*. – Revelation 22:14-15 NKJ

Because, *truly* I say to you, as *one* server to *another*, it's *never* only about *delivering* *cheese*.