

CHAPTER III

David & Goliath: The Rest Of The Story

A few years back I had the pleasure of hearing Doug Wead, who's an author and a preacher, tell the story I'm going to share with you this evening. But, before I get started, I'm going to ask you to help me out a little bit. If you have your Bible with you, and I hope you do, I'm going to ask you to close it right now. Would you please do that for me? Put it on your lap or on the floor, or on the seat next to you or wherever.

When you hear what I'm about to share with you, you'll want to check it out, and you should. But please, for your own benefit, wait until you get home tonight, because if you're flipping through your Bible while I'm up here, you might miss something you need to hear. So if you haven't already done so, would you do that for me right now? Thanks.

The principles I'm going to share with you tonight are two dynamite principles. Principles from the Old Testa-

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ment that we can all study and learn from. And I'll tell you
now; some of you aren't going to believe what I'm about to
tell you, but that's alright. If you want to double check on
me, you can look this up.

This isn't taken out of some Dale Carnegie book. It's out
of the Old Testament. It's in 1 Samuel 17 and if you end up
buying this tape you can just buzz back to this spot and
find 1 Samuel 17 in your Bible and read it. What I'm shar-
ing with you is the true story and it's unlike the way it's
ever been told to you in the past. The story is David & Go-
liath. But they don't teach you the real story. I'm going to
share it with you. What really happened.

When David arrived at the camp that afternoon, all of
Israel was arrayed for battle. Their swords were out of
their sheaths, their horses were snorting and stomping the
ground, their flags were flying in the air, and the trumpets
were ready to blast. And that's why David left his things
with a supply sergeant and ran out onto the battlefield, be-
cause this was a very magical moment. The Philistine and
Israeli armies were poised to fight, and he wanted to see
who was going to win. He didn't run out there because he

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was brave. He was a spectator. And in those days, as
there are today, there were spectators in war. We can sit
back and watch on television . He could actually be on the
battlefield and watch the battle take place.

Well, David ran out to see what was going to happen
and Goliath appeared. Now I'll tell you something about
Goliath, and when I talk about Goliath tonight, I'm talking
about any obstacle between you and your dreams, what-
ever they might be. Dreams for your family and dreams for
your marriage and your career.

When you face a Goliath; when you face that super
problem; bankruptcy, divorce, cancer or whatever; there's a
tendency to become disillusioned and defeated and dis-
couraged. But when you look at the life of the great King
of Israel, David, you come to one conclusion very quickly,
and that's this. Goliath was the best thing that ever hap-
pened to David. Goliath was the beginning of a great ca-
reer.

And sometimes obstacles and challenges can be a very
disillusioning experience. But, Goliath may be the best
thing that ever happened to you. Because you want to do

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something with your life. You don't want to just live, and

breathe ,and die; you want to do something while you're here. And sometimes the challenges and the problems bring out the very best in us. In David's case, Goliath was the beginning of a great career. Just the beginning.

Now, when Goliath appeared he gave a speech. And Goliath wasn't just big, he was good. And when he gave his speech, the Bible says that all Israel fled, and that's important because it means that David ran.

Now I know when some of you were taught this story as a kid, the teacher said that all the Israelis ran and David stood there and he was brave and he was saying, "Hey, how come you're running? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?" And of course the kids don't even know what that means, but we teach it anyway.

The fact is that all Israel ran. Here were these soldiers. They were tough. They were ready to die. The first row was going to die anyway. That's the ridiculous thing about ancient warfare, as modern warfare is also ridiculous, the first row was going to die anyway. They lined up in formation. And after they died the second row took their

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place. And a lot of soldiers had gotten letters from their
wives saying, "Don't volunteer for the first row! Don't be a
hero! Let someone else decide who's going to be on the
first row!" But a lot of those young men volunteered to be
on the first row. They volunteered to die, and they sat
around the campfires preparing themselves to die.

Yet when Goliath appeared, they ran. I don't get it! I
mean there are just so many ways you can die! They were
ready to die; prepared to die; but the weakest link in the
chain broke and the cowards ran, and the officers and the
brave men were saying, "Wait, hey, wait," and then they
ran too! The whole army fled. It was completely demoral-
ized. And no matter what they taught you as a child, the
first time David saw Goliath, he ran like everybody else
with a brain. He ran!

David got back to the camp and he heard a very inter-
esting conversation, and this is what you might not believe.
You may think I'm making this up, but it's the absolute
truth. Now if I shared these same thoughts and I shared
from a different foundation, a different basis, a different
book, you'd all buy it. If I used a different illustration,

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some prominent business man or some athlete, you'd say,

"Great, that was a true statement. Nothing new. We've all known that before." But since I'm picking this very sacred, old Bible story you were taught as a kid, you aren't going to like this, but I told you where you can check up on me. It's absolutely true.

Most of you are hearing this for the first time. Everywhere Doug Wead goes he tells them this and they don't believe it, so he pulls out a Bible and they look it up and they say, "I never saw that before."

Okay, here's what happened. David got back to the campfire and he overheard an interesting conversation. A couple of the soldiers were talking about Goliath and one of the soldiers said, "Do you know what the reward is for the man who kills Goliath?"

And the other man said, "Yes, I've heard. He'll be a prince. He'll marry the princess. He'll ride on a horse. He'll own land. As long as there's a king on the throne of Israel, he nor any of his descendants will ever pay taxes."

And that's when David said what they taught us as children. "What! Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?"

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That's when he said it. It's there! Look it up. It wasn't Goli-
ath that turned David on. It was the princess that turned
David on!

Now, the reason David said, "What?" was because he wanted it repeated. He liked what he heard. And so, according to the Bible, they repeated it again. "The man who kills Goliath will be a prince. He'll ride on a horse. He'll own land. He'll never pay taxes nor any of his descendants."

Now I know that sounds rather mercenary, but I just want to share this point with you that matches up exactly with what the Bible teaches, and that point is this.

You must have a vision! A dream! A goal!

David was no different than any of you. He wanted to do something before he died. When David took care of his father's sheep, he had a lot of dreams, so when he was away at battle and someone said, "Prince," his ears perked up. It got his attention.

We all have different interests and you can give everyone in this room a different people magazine, and they'd all find someone else that they identify with in business or

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entertainment or sports. The word, "Prince," caught

David's attention. That's where his interest began.

The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." A marriage has to have a vision, an ideal, or it will fail. A career has to have a vision, an ideal; it has to be going someplace or it will fail. I'm sure your pastor has a vision for this church, and for his ministry. I'm glad God works that way. I'm glad God gives us visions instead of giving us nightmares. He could give us nightmares to prepare us for the problems we face, instead of visions.

God could wake us up in the middle of the night and say, "Look. You're going to have a skiing accident this Winter and you're going to break your leg. I just want to prepare you for that. But, don't worry about it, you'll be in the hospital a short time and while you're there you'll get your head together, and that's a good thing because you'll be going through a divorce next summer and I want you ready for that."

God could do that!

That's the story of Joseph. Joseph was in prison; Joseph was a slave; Joseph was put in a pit. God didn't show him

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any of that. Why didn't God give Joseph a nightmare and

let him see that he's in a pit? Why didn't God give Joseph a nightmare and let him see that he was a slave?

Do you know what God did? God looked down at a smart-aleck, spoiled kid who was trying to impress his brothers, "How do you like my clothes?" And the more he tried to impress his brothers, the more they hated him. And God looked down at a spoiled kid, who he should have given a horrible case of acne, and God gave him a good dream.

Joseph got up in the middle of the night; if you don't know this story, that's in here too. Joseph got up in the middle of the night and he got all his brothers up, "Heeeeey get up. I've had the most wonderful dream!" Have you ever heard the story of Joseph's dream? He got everybody up around the campfire. His poor old daddy, Jacob, who could never sleep; his brothers were all there. He said, "I've had the most wonderful dream! God gave me this dream! It had to be God. Wait til you hear the dream. You'll say, "That was God."

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His brothers are all yelling, "Alright, alright. Ruben,

bring Ruben out here, hurry up Ruben, hurry up, we wanna go back to sleep!" Everybody was around the campfire and then Joseph finally told his dream. "I had the most wonderful dream. I dreamed that all of your haystacks were bowing down to my haystacks. Isn't that a great dream!"

Well his brothers didn't like it! And nobody likes dreamers. If you get an idea, a dream for you and your family, a dream for your career, a dream for your ministry; even your own brothers will say you're crazy. But if God gives you a dream; if he gives you an idea; if he gives you a plan; don't let somebody else kill your dream! Give it a chance!

As a matter of fact. This syndrome is so common; other people shooting down your dream; that in almost any story of any life you'll find it. Now, I'm not saying you shouldn't expose your ideas and your plans and your dreams to criticism and counsel and help. The Bible tells us that there's wisdom in counsel.

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But before you let someone else destroy the dream that

God has given you, give it just a little bit of room to breathe. Give it a chance. Let the rain fall on it and the sun shine on it. Give it just a little bit of a chance before you let someone else destroy your idea. Because every worthwhile idea you get is a resource from God. Just like oil or gold is a natural resource, that idea is your resource. Don't let someone else shoot it down before you've given it a chance to breathe.

The same story I just told you about Joseph, happened to David. David was talking to these men and they were telling him about the reward for the man who kills Goliath., and all of a sudden David's brother (and it's sometimes your relatives or your closest friends who shoot you down) David's brother walked into the campfire, and he saw David, and he saw that David was impressing these soldiers. And Eliab, who was David's brother, knew that David was a nobody. I mean he knew he was a nobody. He knew he'd never be a prince. He knew he'd never ride on a horse; he'd never own land; he'd never marry the princess; he knew that! But what he couldn't understand is

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why even two soldiers were listening to David, treating
him like he was a normal person.

David really had these soldiers impressed. He was saying, "Wait a minute. Let me get this down. Just a second, I wanna get it down. What's the reward for the man that kills Goliath? What's the reward?"

These soldiers were impressed with him. He was just a kid, but maybe he knew karate or something, they didn't know. So, Eliab came in and he said, "Alright David, I know why you're here. You want to know what soldiers look like in their uniforms, well, you've seen a lot of soldiers today. You've had a big day haven't you kid? Now, tell me this. Who's in charge of the few sheep you're responsible for at home?"

And that's when the soldiers realized that David was a nobody. "Ah, I knew he was a nobody!" See! David was away from home. They didn't know he was a nobody away from home. Now, when you're home everybody knows you're a nobody. All your relatives and all your friends know you're nobody. You'll go home after this meeting and a big crowd of people will be there with banners say-

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ing "Welcome home nobody," and you'll get out of your
car, "Hello, hello,..". Right? Your wife embroiders "No-
body" on your bath towel. You begin to believe that! You
begin to think that!

Well, David was away from home where they didn't
know that he was a nobody. So, Eliab shot him down! Do
you know what David did? What did David do? How did
he handle this criticism from his brother and his friends?
It's no secret. None of the things we'll share here tonight
are secret. Dale Carnegie and some others made a lot of
money telling us things that we already know. Because
some of the most powerful truths in life are obvious. Right
there in front of us. And when we hear somebody say it;
instinctively, intuitively we agree with it; we know it's
true.

Well, what I'm about to share with you, you already
know is true, but it's dynamite still; and that's this. Here's
what David did when his brothers came in and began to
bad mouth him about his dream of marrying a princess, of
the reward for fighting Goliath.

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The Bible says these six words, "He turned from them

to another." And here's what it means. Find somebody else! Find someone, somewhere in the world who will agree with you.

Think about it. It's no secret. There's strength in numbers. Find somebody else who will agree with you. The Bible says, "...five of you will put a hundred to flight, and a hundred of you will put ten thousand to flight," and, "A triple braided cord is not easily broken." Find one other person who's not negative, who's supportive; who believes; who agrees with what you're doing and your dream.

So, David found somebody else. And this is where all that stuff they taught you as a kid gets blown out of the water. It's right there in the Bible but you've probably never heard it told this way before. When David found somebody else, he asked this question for the third time. Third time. Same question. Here's the question. "What is the reward for the man who kills Goliath?" What's the reward?

I'll tell you what I like about David. He puts his mind on the princess; not the problem. Too many times in life

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we're absorbed with the problem. Goliath, Goliath. What

he looks like; How tall he is; What he weighs. If you and I were there, we'd probably be running around taking notes, asking questions about Goliath, like, "How far can this guy throw the spear? How fast can he run?" And we want to know these facts because we're fighting a very illusive enemy, and we want to know! We want to be prepared to fight the enemy. We might ask, "What's his middle name?" We might want to tease him a little, ya know?

We're walking encyclopedias on health problems. We join the arthritis book of the month club so we can keep up. We might get arthritis someday and we want to be ready. We're preparing for failure. Preparing for the enemy.

Well, David was marching all over that battlefield asking questions about the princess. "Is it true she bathes in perfume? What's it like to ride on a horse? How much land do I really get? What's the reward for the man who kills Goliath?" There's energy and there's power in putting your mind on the reward; Not Goliath, and the problem.

Of course I know. I know there aren't absolutes in that. I know that. I heard something the other day about some

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guy from this church who got pushed off a sky scraper. He
was so optimistic, so positive, that on each level down, as
he was falling, at every level, the secretaries and office help
could hear this guy saying, "So far, so good. So far, so
good."

Please understand that life is not as simple, some-
times, as self-help, motivational formulas make it sound.
But, I'll just say this. When your kid comes home with an
F, you don't take that F and put it on the refrigerator door
with little magnets and say to your kid, "Now, I hope you
never get another F. I hope you're humiliated by this.
Every time you open that refrigerator door and get an ap-
ple, I want you to see that F. I hope you never do this
again! You know what I'm going to do. I'm going to have
your father take that F to the office tomorrow and make
photo copies and send them to all the relatives. You've
shamed this family. I hope you never get another F."

You don't do that. But, by the same token. When your
kid comes home, it's the A plus that goes on the refrigera-
tor door. Right? It may be the only A plus he ever got in
his whole life. And on the other side it may say, "Sorry, I

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got your paper mixed up with Angela Bunsberry's, sin-
cerely, Mrs. so and so, the teacher."

You don't tell him it isn't his A plus! That isn't Angela Bunsberry's A plus on the refrigerator door. As far as you're concerned, that's his A plus on the refrigerator door and every time he opens that refrigerator door he sees A plus.

Now, what are you trying to do? Are you trying to corrupt that child, spoil and destroy that child. Are you trying to give him an unrealistic picture of the world. Of course not! Because you know the world is filled with enough negative people and negative philosophies that you want there to be some room, some place, somewhere in the world where there is somebody who believes that he's an A plus.

Well, let me ask you this question. If you've got enough sense to do that for your own kid; why do you put your own F's on the refrigerator door? Get 'em off! Get 'em off! Quit looking at where you're weak. Quit looking at your sicknesses and your hurts and your defeats and get a look at the princess. There's one thing about life that we'll all

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have to agree with and that's this. You can't marry a prin-
cess without killing a dragon. You can't be a prince with-
out killing some giants.

There is nothing worthwhile in your marriage, in your career, in any area of life, that will not cost you something. There'll be a challenge. There'll be a fight. So, don't be discouraged or panic when you see a giant in the way, that just means that there's a princess on the other side. Fight! You've got to have a vision, a dream, a hope.

You know, there's something else that David did in this story that just wipes me out. I can't believe it! He wanted to fight so badly, that he started rehearsing what he would say to King Saul. Now David was a real little guy. He knew they probably wouldn't even let him take the blood test. They wouldn't let him fill out an application. He knew there'd be long lines of people. Just imagine how many people in the world must want to be a prince. Everybody wants to be a prince! So, the Bible says David began to practice, to rehearse what he would say before King Saul.

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" I may be small but I killed a bear, and I killed a lion

and God will help me to kill this giant too!" Can you imagine that guy? Practicing to get a chance. And he showed up in room 316 and nobody was there. Not one person was waiting in line. He must have panicked. He must have thought, "Awww! They already picked the guy, and since I'm not a soldier, I didn't even get the newsletter that said who they picked. Too late! Too Late! No cars in the parking lot. Nobody there even filling out applications. Nobody! It's the wrong place. The wrong place! Too late!"

The point is this. David was so worried about competition and other people; but when it came right down to it; nobody was waiting in line. Nobody! If you start worrying about competition and other people and lost opportunities, you may get a little discouraged. Let me tell you something. There's plenty of room for you!

All your friends will say, "I'm gonna do this; next year I'll be this; next year I'll have this. I'll have so much money put away in so many months." All of them talk about it, but when it comes right down to it, nobody's in line! Nobody really wants to be a prince. Nobody really wants to

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take on the challenge. Don't worry! The least of your wor-
ries should be other people.

The second thing about David's heroic stand on that battlefield is this. The first thing is, "have a vision." The second thing about it is this word right here. Now there are people who will want to run up on the stage and haul me off for saying this, so I'm going to say it softly and please, I'm going to explain it to you, so don't throw rocks at me, okay? "Try!" And I'll tell you what I mean.

There are people I know who hate for me to ever use that word. When I say "try", They'll say, "Don't say that word. Say, "Do it!" But I'll tell you why I'm using the word "try" tonight. I'm using the word "try" for some of the weak ones, like me, and I'll tell you why.

It was easier for me to write this whole book; to spend all those hours, all those weeks, all those months; researching, and writing, and rewriting, and editing, and contacting publishers; over 2 1/2 years. That was easier to do than it was to write the first page of this book. Do you see it? Try!

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I wrote that first page and wadded it up and threw it in

the waste basket at least two dozen times.. I started and stopped that project so many times. "You aren't going to write a book! What authority do you have to write a book? Even if you wrote a book it'd be a waste of time! Who would ever buy the book? It won't sell!" You know that little voice?

It was harder to write that first page, than it was to write the whole book. And that's why I say, "Try!" Take the first step! Try it! Whatever you do. What a horrible thing to have an idea, a dream, a possibility and to go to your grave without even giving it the first step. Who knows how easy the second and third and fourth steps will be. Just overcome inertia. Just take the first step. Just try, before you say no and close the door on your dream. Give it a chance! Give it a chance!

I'll tell you a good way to describe David. He was the last one out a dodge ball. Now I know that sounds a bit strange so let me explain. I remember when I was a sophomore in high school. The coach would say, "Alright, everybody line up against the wall." And we'd line up

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against the wall. And the coach would say, "Okay, count
off, one, two." And we'd count off, "One, two, one, two,
one, two, one, two, one, two..." And somebody would say,
"three." And that wasn't funny in high school.

Now, when we were in the third grade, the first time
somebody did that, that was funny. Somebody said,
"three", and we'd think, "Ha ha. It's supposed to be one or
two."

"I know but I said three as a joke."

"Oh, I get it. Three instead of one or two. I get it.
That's pretty good."

Now in the fourth grade, it's no longer funny. Because
in the fourth grade when that happens in gym class, they
say, "Aw, Randy Smith said that in the third grade. I know
that."

By the time you get to high school, it's really sad. The
only person that ever says, "three" in the count-off, is the
kind of guy that's never been funny. All his life, he's never
said anything funny in school. And he says, "three" in high
school. It's sad. And then he goes home to his mom and he

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says, "Hey mom, I really cracked 'em up today in gym
class. I said "Three".

But in all the history of the world, they've never given a count-off in high school where they've gone all the way to the end without at least one person saying, "three", for some reason. They'll say three, no matter what.

Once in Lincoln High School, in Dubuque, Iowa, they got to the last person and then they said "three", and that's as close as they've come. I'm writing a book on that called "Count off. One, two, three" and anyway, I'm doing research on that subject. That's how I know about that.

So anyway, the coach would say, "All the one's on that side. All the two's on the other side. Soccer balls in the middle. When I blow this whistle, you run out and grab the soccer balls. Now, if you get hit, you go to the showers and get dressed and go upstairs to study hall."

So I didn't want to get hit. The idea was not to get hit. I'd find the biggest guy that I could, and I'd hide behind him like this. I was smaller then. And he'd jump that way and I'd jump with him and try not to get hit. And I always got hit. I was always one of the first ones out. The balls

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would go, "POW! POW! POW! Havey, you're out! You're
out!" And I'd go, "I know, I know." And I'd go to the
showers. You know, I didn't like dodge ball. I wasn't any
good at dodge ball, and I couldn't figure out why. I
thought I was reasonably fast, but I don't know.

Now, my junior year of high school was different. We
had gym class the last hour of school. And when we
played dodge ball, if you got hit, you went to the showers,
got dressed and went home early. So I'd be lacing up my
tennis shoes and they'd say, "We're playing dodge ball to-
day, Havey." And I'd think, "Great! I'm gonna get hit. Al-
right! Hit me! I'll get hit and I'll go home! I'll have a head
start on everybody else."

I was kind of rebellious in school. Of course, I'm not
rebellious at all now, but I was rebellious in school. I
couldn't stand school. The teacher would say, "Silas
Marner. I want you to read Silas Marner."

I'd say, " Wait a second. Let me get that down. I want
to make sure I never, ever read the book. Silas Marner.
Okay. What else?" That's the kind of student I was. I was
bad. See, now I'm a lot nicer.

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So, I'd think while I'm lacing up my shoes. "I'm gonna get hit early and get outta here!" But, just when I'd walk out on the floor, I'd think. "Well, since you don't care if you get hit, Bob, you might as well go out in a blaze of glory." I mean, I didn't care.

So, I'd run out and grab the soccer ball. POW! I was the terror of the dodge ball court. I was always among the last ones out and towards the end of school some of my friends were saying, "Hey Havey, how come you're so good at dodge ball? "And I didn't tell them my secret, but here was my secret. I wasn't afraid to lose!

A friend of mine is in Prison Ministry. He used to be in prison, but now he's in Prison Ministry and he's also a Pastor. God can do that. He told me about a guy who had everyone else on his cell block living in fear. My friend had never seen this guy and he figured he'd be some great big guy, because there were a lot of them there. One day in the cafeteria, somebody said, "Hey, here he comes. Here he comes. That's him." And here came this little, short guy. He had that whole cell block living in fear.

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My friend couldn't believe it! He said, "That's him? He doesn't look very big!" And the other inmates said, "Oh, he's crazy. He's crazy. He got all cut up in a knife fight and he got right up out of his hospital bed looking for the guy. He's crazy."

Well, I've thought about it and I'll tell you why everyone was afraid of this guy. He wasn't afraid to lose! He wasn't very much. But, he wasn't afraid to lose.

The two greatest enemies you face in life are FOF and FOP. FOP is the fear of people. What people think of you; what they say of you; their plans for your life; where you should go; where you should work; what you should do. The fear of people. And when you can break the fear of people, it's like chains falling off of you.

And the other enemy is the greatest enemy you'll ever face in your life, and it's the enemy that keeps you from even trying. From even trying once! And that is FOF. The fear of failure.

What's that sweaty, old locker room slogan? "Better to have tried something great, and failed, than to have tried nothing at all and succeeded." Try! Maybe you'll fail. That

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isn't even the point. Here's the point. Try! Maybe you'll
win!

Well. I've got to wrap this up. So, I'll wrap it up by telling you who won, because I hate these modern films on television where you sit there for two hours and watch this movie and all of a sudden, it's over! And there are the credits. It's over! And your wife says, "Well, did he get out of prison, or did he not get out of prison?"

And you say, "I dunno. Look, there are the credits. Look. Produced by..."

"Well, he's reading a letter. Maybe the letter's from the governor and he got out of prison."

"Yeah, but the letter could be from his mother. His mother writes him everyday. Maybe he's reading his mother's letter again."

"Well, I don't know if he got out of prison or not. What do you think?"

"I dunno."

I can't stand that! I know in Hollywood they're thinking, "What we'll do is leave it up to the viewer. Let him decide."

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I hate that! They want to leave it up to your imagina-

tion. That's the problem! I've got too much of an imagination! I can see the guy walking out of prison, and maybe he gets run over by a Greyhound bus, and all night long I'm thinking, "What happened to this guy? What happened to him?"

I like those old fashioned movies that end in the middle. It's all over in the middle and the whole rest of the movie you get to enjoy it. He gets out of prison, comes home, there are yellow ribbons on the trees; that sort of thing.

So, with that in mind, I'm not going to send you home saying, "Oh, this speaker talked about David and Goliath and he didn't even tell who won."

I'm going to tell you who won. Then it's over. Ah.....David. That part is true. David won.

Now Goliath wasn't just big. They didn't just pick him because he was big. He was already a champion! He was the champion of the Philistines. I mean they saw this kid coming!

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When Goliath was in the fourth grade, the teacher

called the principal into the room and said, "Look at the kid in the third row, Have you ever seen anything like it in your life?"

And the principal said, "Yes, ah, has he flunked or something?"

And the teacher said, "Well, he's flunked a couple of times but...he's bigger than you are Mr. Thompson."

And the principal said, "Yeah, well, uh, have you told coach Wilson about this kid?"

"Oh yeah, coach knows all about 'em."

They took this kid, this giant, this freak of nature;; and made him a champion. And now he was going to be a conqueror, because here was the plan.

The Philistines had a very well equipped army. So they figured, "Why shed all this blood? Why kill all these boys? You send one Israeli to fight for Israel and we'll chose one Philistine to fight for us. Whoever wins, let that country win."

Good idea! And the Israelis had to fall for it because they didn't have the equipment and they weren't armed

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like the Philistines. And the Philistines knew they were
going to win. They couldn't lose. Even if they lost Goliath,
they could go ahead and renege on their promise and de-
stroy the Israelis anyway. They had nothing to lose, and
they might save all that blood and not lose even one man.

Goliath was big and he had a great speech, and he gave
it every morning and every evening. And Goliath already
knew who he was going to fight. He was ready. There was
a dossier on all the great men of Israel. Some were fast,
some were good with the bow and arrow, some with the
spear, and Goliath knew every one of them. Who they
were; what they were good at; how he would handle each
one of them. He was ready!

The Philistine prime minister and all the officials went
to his work out camps and saw him well in advance of the
battle. They had a plan! It was a tremendous plan! It was
so devastating that on the first day, an army of a half mil-
lion Israelis just ran off in a cloud of dust and left their
weapons behind.

But that afternoon, David came walking across the
countryside. Goliath knew that this was his opponent be-

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cause back in those days they carried flags to identify

themselves. They went around in caravans. The king could be seen from far off. You could tell he was a king because he had a big flag that identified him in a crowd, in a caravan traveling across the desert.

So, Goliath could see from the royalty gathered around that this was their man. This was no messenger. This was him! There's King Saul, there's a prince and there's a princess and there's a general, and another general and here comes David. David was just a little kid!

And do you know what Goliath thought? When I read this story it just psyches me out. Goliath thought, "Now I see what the Israelis have done. They knew they were going to lose. They knew they'd lost so they got together and they planned a propaganda, PR reverse. They're sending a kid to fight me so that they can tell the next generation, 'Yeah Goliath won. Of course he won! He killed a boy about seventeen years old! He should have won!' The Israelis will mock us and they'll come back to haunt us in some future generation! They'll make a mockery out of our victory." That's what he thought.

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All his paranoia, all his inferiority came to the surface.

Let's face it. Goliath couldn't buy his shoes at Walmart like all the other kids. He was inferior because of his size. He had all the problems we associate with a freak of nature.

All this came to the surface, and in his anger and his paranoia he said, "AH! I'm going to be a laughing stock in history, instead of a conqueror. They'll make fun of me! They'll laugh at this moment! I was born for this moment, and they're going to laugh at me!"

So his words to David were these, " Well, come on then! If it's got to be that way, it's got to be that way, kid." Goliath's going to take out all his frustration, all his anger, on this little kid who he's going to tear apart.

Now, how would you like to be David. Going around saying, "Um, listen What's the reward for the man that kills Goliath?" And. "Uh. What's the name of the princess. You know. I want to get used to her name."

How would you like to be David? And there's the giant. It's one thing to talk about it, isn't it? It's another thing to get out there and do it.

So David answered him with these words. "Thou comest to me with a sword and a shield and a spear. But, I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied!"

And David looked into the faces of five hundred thousand soldiers, as far as they eye could see, up and down and across that valley. Five hundred thousand Philistine soldiers armed to the teeth, and in front of him a legend, a living legend. The champion of the armies of the Philistines.

And David said, " This day the Lord will give you into my hand, and I will take thine head from thee, and I will deliver the carcasses of the host of the Philistines, this day, to the wild beasts of the earth and the fowls of the air. And all the earth will know, there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know the Lord saveth not with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into my hands."

And David slung a rock. Tong! Goliath was covered with armor but the rock hit him in the one place he didn't have any armor, and he fell to the ground.

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The Bible says there was silence. The Philistines looked.

The Israelis looked. "Is he faking? Is he dead? Has he been wounded? Maybe he's unconscious. Maybe it's a trick. It's got to be a trick."

David's standing there. On the outside he's acting like, "Hey, pretty good shot huh?" On the inside he's thinking, "Do I really have to go up to the guy and check it out and see if he's actually dead?"

David walked up to Goliath. "Boy, I can't tell if he's breathing under that armor."

The Bible says he climbed up on him. The Philistines were quiet. The Israelis; quiet. At any moment, Goliath might suddenly reach up with his hand and go, "AH".

David pulled out Goliath's sword. Now David had a lot of faith, because before he killed Goliath, he told him, "I'm going to cut your head off," and he only had a sling shot.

David pulled out Goliath's sword. It was a very heavy sword. David lifted up the sword, hoping he wouldn't chop his own shoulder off. Philistines looking. Swoosh!

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And when Goliath's head was severed (that's when

they knew he was dead, see. I know we were taught this story differently. You look it up later. They had been silent which means they didn't believe it. They were stunned.)

But, when Goliath's head was severed and they saw his head move, the Bible says the Israelis, and there were half a million of 'em, gave a big shout. Let's hear what it would sound like. Are you ready? Let's give a big shout. "Heeeeeey!"

That's what happened. And that army, that just three days earlier had dropped their weapons on the battlefield and run in terror in a cloud of dust, let out a shout and forward they came, with their swords drawn and their spears in the air, and the Philistines panicked and fled.

And one man turned it around because he wanted to be somebody. He wanted to be a prince and not just a shepherd.

I've only got a minute left, so, I want my last words to you to be these words. These are the last words that David said before he died, and you can check up on this too, if you'd like to. This is the man that had killed Goliath. He

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had a lot of experience in life, a lot of challenges, a lot of
hurts, and a lot of victories. He married Bathsheba eventually, and Solomon, his son was born.

And as King David was dying, these were his last words. You're not going to believe they're his words. You're going to think that I took some ancient manuscript and rephrased it into modern language. I didn't. This is from the King James Version of the Bible.

These are not the words of some self-help, motivational speaker. These are the words of King David thousands of years ago on his death bed. You can find them in 1 Chronicles 28:20. You can look it up when you get home.

David had a dream of building a great temple. He had already gathered much of the gold and the timber and many of the materials he would need to fulfill this dream. But now, as his life slowly slipped away, he knew that he would never live to see his dream realized.

King David looked up into the eyes of his son, Solomon, and the last words he spoke before his death were these. "Be strong. Be of good courage, and....DO IT!"
Do it.