

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 02/02/14

1 Samuel 17 — “The Battle is the Lord’s,” Ryan Kelly

In a sentence: In the story of David and Goliath we are identified with fearful Israel who was yet protected by an unlikely victor.

SUNDAY’S OUTLINE

1. A Godless Giant and a Young Shepherd (1-18)
2. A Fearful Army and an Outraged Boy (11, 19-30)
3. A Weak King and a Confident Servant (31-40)
4. A Big Man and a Bigger God (41-58)
5. An Emerging Leader and a Greater Hope

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. The story begins with an introduction to Goliath and then to David. Review these descriptions and notice parallel details.
2. Who else is David contrasted with in the story? Where is Saul’s confidence? Where do the Philistines put their confidence? Where does Israel put her confidence? What is the ultimate reason for Saul and Israel’s fear? By contrast, how is the story written to show the object of David’s confidence?
3. Ryan mentioned a verse from last week’s sermon that serves as an interpretive key to the chapter. What is it?
4. Where are we in this story? Who should we ultimately identify ourselves with? What does this story teach us about our weakness and our need?
5. How does David point us to Jesus?
6. What is the story of David and Goliath not about? What is it about? When you have heard this story taught before, did it deal faithfully with the point of the passage?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- **Interpretive Key to this section from last week:** 1 Samuel 16:7
- **What is the story of David and Goliath about? What lessons does it teach us?** “It’s not a story of how we can conquer whatever obstacles lie before us, but how are we not stirred when God’s name is dishonored. It’s not a story about David’s underestimated strength, but God’s underestimated strength. It’s a story that shouldn’t immediately stir up our own confidence, but actually expose our sins of fear and doubt. It’s a story which should cause us to look for a deliverer—a hero...and it’s not us.” Ryan answered the same question again at the end of the sermon: “The message of 1 Samuel 17 is not that we can conquer any hurdle, not that we need more courage. It’s that we need a rescuer! We always read a story or watch a movie and identify ourselves with one of the characters. You’re probably tempted to read this standing in David’s shoes. Maybe you’re not a very good David, but sometimes you are and you can be a better David. But this isn’t right. You and I are the fearful and frozen army. And like the army and like Saul, our greatest threat is not Goliath or Philistines, but our own hearts full of doubt and fear, walking by sight not by faith. We need a rescuer. And we need a rescuer who is far better than David. If the bigger problem is our own hearts and not Goliaths. Then we need a Hero who can conquer our sin and our stubborn wills.”