

## Column

We all have memories of childhood. One of mine is of Sunday School teachers holding up colorful posters as they told stories from the Bible. One showed young David, diminutive in stature, slingshot in hand, standing before the giant Goliath.

I'm sure you know the story. David, a shepherd boy at the time, was sent by his father Jesse to check on his older brothers who were off fighting in King Saul's army against the Philistines. When he arrived, he found the opposing sides across from each other on opposite mountains.

But what really caught David's attention was this big guy strutting around in the valley separating the two camps. The message he was sending up to the army of Israel was: "Let's settle this matter once and for all. Send out a representative to fight with me. Whoever wins, the victory will go to his side."

What got David's dander up was no one was taking this big brute on. Not only was the giant cursing Israel but her God, and their were mouths mute. Were they wimps, or worse?

So, he announced he would go and fight. No doubt, some snickers went throughout the camp as David was still very young and not an experienced man of war. Nevertheless, that did not deter him, and with King Saul's blessings he went.

And we all know how the story ends. David armed with nothing more than a slingshot, hurls a stone into Goliath's forehead causing the giant to fall over dead as a doornail. Then with the giant's own sword he cuts off the brute's head, and there is celebration in the camp of Israel.

Violence and gore notwithstanding, the story of David and Goliath continues to appeal to children. From this story, they learn bravery and courage.

Bravery and courage are good lessons to learn. A line from a well-known hymn comes to mind, "When duty calls or danger, be never wanting there." Certainly, these two should mark out how Christians respond to adversities and challenges in life, but there is more to the story.

David is a type of Christ. When Christians read the story of David and Goliath, their thoughts are propelled forward to Jesus on the cross. There the One who came forth from the line of David did battle with an even greater enemy – sin and death. And, as with the story of David and Goliath, Jesus' victory is a victory for all His people. Christ has trampled death by death. Because He lives, we shall live also!

Easter Day has come and gone for another year, but the victory celebrated on this day is ever with us. Indeed, every Sunday is a remembrance of the resurrection. That is why Christians gather on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) and why it is called in Scripture "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10).

David points us to Christ, and Christ points us forward to our own future in Him. Let the celebration continue!

*O GOD, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord; Vouchsafe us every Lord's Day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy service; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)*

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