

# Characteristics Of A Giant Killer

**Introduction.** In broad sweeps of the writer's pen, Paul said that a Christian's duty included serving God with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:28). But everyone's service is not always as smooth as it should be. For this reason, we need to learn about being good servants.

In 1 Samuel 17, the inspired writer left us with a splendid example in David. David is going to teach us how to serve God. The story of David and Goliath has been an eternal favorite with children, but it also holds the answers as to how best to serve God.

Challenges or problems that we face in serving God reveal our character. The only people who are ever going to reach "giant" positions in the kingdom of God are those who have defeated giants. No Christian has ever been successful without facing and overcoming an obstacle somewhere.

Giants are often tools by which God fashions us for bigger things. In fact, they seldom represent just themselves. If we can overcome the "giants" of fear and doubt, we will be fashioned for even greater service in God's kingdom. Let's look at the characteristics of a giant killer and learn how we can become better and more fervent in doing the Lord's will.

## I. ***Giant Killers Do Not Start Off As Giant Killers***

- A. David started as a humble shepherd, not a seasoned warrior (1 Samuel 17:14-24).
- B. David was not the only individual to start from humble means. A number of Jesus' disciples were fishermen (Matthew 4:18-22).
- C. The Lord does not necessarily need someone well-versed in the ways of this world to be effective. He needs people who are simply willing to use and develop their talents (Matthew 25:20-23).
- D. David was faithful in small tasks. Just as David was faithful in small tasks, the army was unfaithful in large tasks. David grew and matured to be faithful in large tasks. Can we not grow and increase our talents? Is this not what the Lord wants from us?

## II. ***Giant Killers See The Potential Reward If They Defeat The Giant***

- A. David considered the reward of defeating Goliath (1 Samuel 17:25-27).
- B. The army saw Goliath while David saw God; the army saw the problem while David saw the potential. Sometimes when we are doing the work of the Lord, we cannot see all the help around us. Elisha's servant got a glimpse of just how powerful God can be when His children need Him (2 Kings 6:15-19).
- C. Giant killers see things that others are unwilling to see. Did the armies of Israel know about the rewards? Yes, because they told David.

However, they feared the giant more than they wanted the reward.

- D. Sometimes we have to climb out on the end of the limb because that is where the fruit is found. The ones who want to go to heaven will be the ones who can see the reward of serving God (Mark 9:33-35).

### III. ***Giant Killers Do Not Listen To Doubting Critics***

- A. David was criticized by Eliab, Saul and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:28-33, 41-44).
- B. Some of the greatest men who ever lived were criticized and scorned for their work. Think of Peter (Acts 2:13), Paul (Acts 17:32) and Jesus (Matthew 9:23-24).
- C. Unwarranted criticism is one of the hurtful things anyone can do to us. Members of the church have been some of the deepest critics I have ever met. Every phrase that comes out of their mouth begins with, "I don't like ..." or "You can't do that." A critic is one who points out how imperfectly other people do what they do not do at all.
- D. You can determine the caliber of a person by the amount of opposition it takes to discourage him. The Lord warned His disciples in advance of their terrible persecution and criticism they would undergo (Matthew 10:22). That did not stop those men and it had better not stop us. Every person who has never killed a giant will tell you it is impossible.

### IV. ***Giant Killers Are Not Overwhelmed By The Challenge***

- A. It was no secret that David had a daunting task ahead of him (1 Samuel 17:32).
- B. David was not overwhelmed because he had a passion for God's glory. He was tired of Goliath using God as a doormat. He wanted to return to God the honor He deserved.
- C. David was not overwhelmed because he had a desire for the reward. He specifically asked about the benefits for the one who would defeat Goliath. He wanted the reward but he also wanted to glorify God also.
- D. David was not overwhelmed because he had confidence. Self-confidence makes others believe in us while God-confidence makes others believe in God.
- E. Too many Christians are overwhelmed by the challenges a local work provides. So we come together and the giant is never dealt with. Israel came out every day and cried the war chant and then went back to their tents. I imagine that it was more difficult the 40th day than the 1st. Our giants get bigger everyday until we rise to the challenge.

### V. ***Giant Killers Build On Past Successes***

- A. David recounted to Saul his defeat of the lion and the bear (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

- B. David's confidence was based on successful encounters and God's protection (Psalm 122:5-8). He reminded himself and others of the faithfulness of God.
- C. Our best service to God is likely to come after we have experienced a challenge or faced a problem. Or it may have come after we made a commitment to do our best.
- D. What happens all too often is that we build on our past failures. We may have failed in teaching a Bible class or preaching a sermon, and all of a sudden that becomes our status quo. Building on past failures just makes us that much more sensitive to future failures.

#### VI. ***Giant Killers Do Not Try To Be Someone Else***

- A. David did not try to be like Saul even when Saul tried to make David like him (1 Samuel 17:38-40).
- B. God only expects us to use what we have to overcome our giants. The servants called into account on the use of their talents were never expected to be someone else (Matthew 25:20-25). The two talent man was not judged on the same basis as the five talent man.
- C. Likewise, I am not going to be judged on my abilities compared to other preachers. God is going to hold me accountable for how well I did what I could do.

#### VII. ***Giant Killers Face The Challenge With A Higher Purpose***

- A. David defeated Goliath to demonstrate the power of God (1 Samuel 17:45-47).
- B. The real test of a person is not when they play the role that they want for themselves, but when they play the role God has for them (Philippians 2:12-13).
- C. Every Christian ought to face their "giants" with the express purpose of glorifying God. It is not for building our ego, nor is it for the satisfaction of meeting personal fears, but it is to show the power of God working through us to accomplish His goals.

#### VIII. ***Giant Killers Are Eager To Win***

- A. David ran quickly to the battle line to engage Goliath in battle (1 Samuel 17:48).
- B. Giant killers are inspired by a challenge and eager to win the victory. You can readily judge the size of God's servants by the size of the task he or she is willing to face. The apostles of Christ had no challenge that they would not accept. Their bravery, willingness and dedication will forever be remembered.
- C. David chose five stones from a nearby brook (1 Samuel 17:40). David knew that the first stone might not kill him. David was certain of vic-

tory, but he also knew it might take repeated attempts. Hebrews 6:11-12 tells us that it is through faith and patience that we inherit the promises. Though the battle may be long in your life, the victory is certain.

IX. ***Giant Killers Take Those Around Them To A Higher Level***

- A. After David won his victory, the Israelite army pursued the Philistines as far as Ekron (1 Samuel 17:49-52).
- B. The very same ones who stood in fear of Goliath before are now taken to a new level of confidence and action. It is hard to believe that these were the same men we see a few verses before. Success in any endeavor, but particularly in godly endeavors, motivates others to new heights.
- C. It has been said that the first sign of a crisis is when you have a major problem and no one tries to help you solve it. The family of God ought to do whatever possible to encourage and build up those who are truly attempting to grow, mature and reach new levels of service.

**Conclusion.** Giant killers consider the cause, count the cost and chart the course. The ones who want to go to heaven will be the ones who are servants of God (Mark 9:33-35). David gives us a great example of how to be successful in our endeavors with God. Do we have any of these characteristics? If not, then we had better correct our life and faithfully serve God.