

3rd Quarter 2020 July-August-September INTRODUCTION

Matthew 6:25-34 is a portion of Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount," given to a crowd on a mountainside overlooking the Sea of Galilee, which specifically addresses the topic of worry. History tells us that this is His longest and most popular sermon. Which tells us that He knew worry would be our most significant hindrances. Be encouraged! Find peace and contentment in the verses below:

"Do Not Worry"

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" ²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:25-34) NIV

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LESSON 1 ~ TRUST YOUR ARMOR

JULY 5, 2020

Background Scripture: 1 Samuel 17

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 17:34-39 (NKJV)

Introduction: Have you ever felt unsure of yourself, thinking, if I just had what he/she has, then my life would be different? Consider the gifts or experiences God has given specifically to you. Trust your God-given armor. The Bible is clear: This world is a spiritual battle zone, which every day puts us and those we love in harm's way from enemy attacks. Satan is relentless, and human defenses are no match for his dark devices. What can you do to protect yourself and your family?

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 17:34-39 (NKJV)

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" 38 So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. 39 David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So, David took them off.

Topic Explored: "Trust Your Armor" ~ When we win, the victory isn't ours; it's the Lord's. David went forward, putting on his armor of faith; claiming that his strength and shield was the very God that Goliath defied. He went on to state that victory would be to prove the strength of the LORD to the whole world, not to bring celebrity, fame, or victory for himself. David's motivation and purpose were to defend God and bring glory to the LORD Almighty.

Memory Verse: *39 David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.* (1 Samuel 17:39) NKJV.

Lesson Focus: 1 Samuel 17:34-39 (NKJV)

Verses 34-35 ~ We don't get the impression that David the young shepherd was unsure of himself when it came to wearing Saul's armor to fight Goliath (1 Samuel 17:38-39). He simply couldn't move around in it. David realized one man's armor can be another man's prison—"I cannot go in these". So, he trusted what he knew. God had prepared him for that moment with just what was needed. The sling and stones were what David was used to, his armor, and God used them to bring joy to the ranks of Israel that day.

Verses 36-37 ~ David isn't worried about his weakness, because he remembers God's faithfulness in the past. David knows that he couldn't have defeated the lion and the bear on his

own. God did that. And God will do the same with this uncircumcised Philistine who has defied the armies of the living God. David's logic is perfectly sound. "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." It is a statement of faith in the present, based on God's faithfulness in the past. "The Lord who delivered me in the past ... will deliver me here, right now, in the present situation." By looking back in faith, David is able to look forward in faith as well.

Part of trusting God's power in the present is remembering God's faithfulness in the past. When the Israelites were getting ready to enter the Promised Land, what did Moses tell them? He told them to remember Egypt. We read in Deuteronomy 7: "You may say to yourselves, 'These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?' But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt." (Deuteronomy 7:17-18) Psalm 105:5 says: "Remember the wonders [God] has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced." Is whatever you're facing bigger than you right now? Trust God's power. Don't worry about your weakness. Remember God's faithfulness in the past. That's what David did.

And David's faith was so strong he even convinced Saul! Saul told David, "Go, and the Lord be with you." Even Saul is showing a little faith here. Not enough to go fight Goliath himself, but enough to let David go and fight. Remember, there is more on the line here than just David's life. Whoever loses this fight, their people become slaves to the other nation. Saul is entrusting the fate of his entire army and the whole Nation of Israel to David. So that's the first thing we learn about conquering by faith this morning. If you want to conquer by faith instead of being paralyzed by fear, you need to trust your armor (God's power).

Verses 38-39 ~ David's faith was in the living God, not in human methods. After Saul says, "May the Lord be with you," he shows where his trust really lies when he tries to outfit David in his own armor. That's the way of the cultural believer: You fight the enemy with all of the latest worldly techniques and methods, with some religious clichés tacked on to make it sound spiritual. Many Christians today face giants in their lives--sins which the Bible tells how to deal with. But instead of turning to the Bible which shows us how to trust in the living God, they turn to the wisdom of the world with some Bible verses thrown in to make it sound spiritual. But--picture the humor here--David gets all this armor on, and he can't move! He's like a little kid dressed up in a snowsuit put on over 14 layers of clothes. He's as stiff as a zombie! And so, he takes it off.

In **Verses 40-47** (Not in our printed text) ~ David uses a method--five smooth stones and his shepherd's sling plus a stick. But the method David used was consistent with his faith in the living God and with the glory and power of God (Verses 45-47). David didn't magnify his sling or his own expertise, but rather he magnified the Lord (Verse 45). I can picture him nodding his head back toward the faithless cowards of Israel as he says (17:47), "That this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or spear..." There is nothing wrong with methods, as long as your trust is truly in the living God and not in your slick method, and as long as the method does not detract from the Lord's glory and power. The way to fell that giant sin in your life is not by some latest method, but by genuine trust in the living God. Faith always honors God, not methods, and God always honors faith, not methods (Psalm 33:13-22).

Let's talk about it. . .

- **What's an example of someone else's armor that's been a matter of comparison or even jealousy for you? How might your armor be just what's needed for this day?**

Making it personal:

- David needed to be suited up for battle. However, he wasn't ready for the armor the king tried to give him. It wasn't his; It didn't fit him and it wasn't what he was used to. Instead, David courageously armed himself with faith. We're to do the same. We are to prepare for each day's battle by arming ourselves in faith. In order to do this, we must be able to wear our armor! Remember what happened when David's armor was too big and uncomfortable? He couldn't wear it! We need to do what it takes to grow into our faith so that it fits; and we must use it every day, in every occasion possible – good and bad – so that we're comfortable wearing it! Then when we face giants and battles in our own lives, we'll be ready and fully suited for victorious battle in the Lord's Name.

Closing Prayer: *“Sovereign God, at times it's easy to feel unsure of myself, especially in situations where challenges feel like giants. Help me to trust that You've given me just what I need. You've crafted my life's story. Praise be to God! In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen!”*

Notes:
