



"The People In Our Lives"

Cypress Bible Notes

August 12, 2007

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Series: The People in our Lives, Message #3, David and Goliath

The People Who Threaten Us

1 Samuel 17:1-58

Listen! A deposition, an attorney, and an angry man.

Question: What do I do in the face of powerful, angry, and threatening people?

- A. Kill them with a slingshot?
- B. Run from them and hide in my tent?
- C. Hire an attorney?
- D. Refer them to an anger management counselor?

1 Samuel 17:1-58 has another answer—here is the account of the famous event:

- Champion warfare:
- Goliath:
- “Goliath dominated imagination:”*
- Defying God:
- Dismay and fear:
- The 40-Day Dance:
- The punk is back:
- Eliab’s dance:
- “God dominated imagination:” *
- Sling shot technology/theology:
- God dominated declaration:
- The last thing that went through Goliath’s mind:

Core Idea: In the face of interpersonal threats...first, rely on God and second, change the dance.

- Rely on God:
- Change the dance:

Principles and applications:

- When we deal with threatening people God’s name and reputation are at stake.
- Threatening people can introduce great risk into our lives and God can use that for great reward in our lives.
- Will you commit to rely on God and change your dance with one person?
Who? _____ When? _____ How? _____

* Eugene Peterson’s phrase from *Leap Over a Wall*.

Walking Papers

Practical Helps for Walking With God

Core Idea: In the face of interpersonal threats...first, rely on God and second, change the dance.

Please take some time this week to work on the life change applications from today's passage:

- **Today:** Who are the threatening people in your life? How do they threaten or harm you?
- **Monday:** How would you describe the "dance" between you and these individual people? What is their part of the dance and what is your part of the dance?
- **Tuesday:** How could you rely on God more fully in the face of these threatening people?
- **Wednesday:** How could you change your part of the dance in a constructive way? Where would you get the wisdom for this change? Where would you get the courage for this change?
- **Thursday:** Have you seen a person "change a dance they were dancing" in their lives for the better? What did that look like? What were the outcomes?
- **Friday:** What are the great rewards that could grow out of your interaction with the threatening people in your life?
- **Saturday:** Why did God allow threatening people in David's life? Why does God allow threatening people in our lives?

"The relationship may be threatening and even miserable but you could always change the dance."