

# New Beginnings – August 1, 2010

## 1 Samuel 17

America is a nation of 300 million people. We all have one thing in common. We all think we're the little guy.

Everyone loves the movie where the small-town attorney takes on the sprawling multinational conglomerate that's poisoning the water in the local streams. Everyone cries in the final frame of the film when she clenches her fist in victory. We all love to see the small liberal arts college fight through to the Final Four to take on the big state school powerhouse. It makes everyone feel great. We know the inspiring movie about the resilience of the little guy has been made by exactly the kind of giant, faceless corporation the attorney in the movie is standing up against.

So why do we still say we like the little guy? We want our movies to be about David, but we spend our lives trying desperately hard to be Goliath. We think it's quaint and clever that David got by with five smooth stones and a sling, but we spend our own energies stockpiling swords and spears and javelins. We admire the fact that David forswore Saul's armor and gadgetry, but just look at our car, just look at our house, just look at our country: we've beefed them up to look like Goliath, with so many safety and security features we can hardly move around in them. All the things Goliath had. *All the things David didn't have.*

Here's David, full of confidence, full of faith, full of hope, telling Saul he doesn't need the heavy armor and telling Goliath he doesn't need the mighty power. David defeated Goliath. And what happened next? The people swung behind David. David became king. But it didn't stop there. Gradually a terrible irony began to take shape. *David became Goliath.* David became a bully. David became a merciless military powerbroker. David became a ruthless acquirer of pleasure and advantage. David became the overblown beached whale he'd begun his career by destroying.

Just like Elvis Presley, for whom fame and fortune turned gyrating hips into bloated cheeks, *David became Goliath.* What a tragedy that was.

How do we avoid losing our souls? That's what we're talking about. When everyone in the world seems to admire and fear Goliath, with all that muscle and armor and big talk, and all the world is like Saul, saying, "Here's all this armor; you'd better put it on; you're going to need this round here," how are you going to remain true to yourself and what you believe in?

***Spend time before Sunday reading and meditating on the [17<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Samuel](#). I have but one question for Sunday's discussion. From where did David draw his strength? See if you can find five sources symbolized by David's five stones.***

Dan