



St Columba's Parish Church

Stewarton (SC013595) (CCLI 1095831)

Summary - Home Service 26th January, 2025

David facing Goliath is one of the best-known stories in the Bible. There is something about the little guy beating the big bully that strikes a chord in the human heart. There is something in this story that appeals to our sense of fairness, there is something satisfying when good is victorious over evil when the baddie gets his comeuppance. This story gives hope to those who face difficult situations that there is a way to overcome and be victorious.,

Here we find the Philistines, the enemy of Israel facing each other in battle which has ended in a stalemate. In order to end the stalemate, the Philistines offer a challenge, their champion Goliath will fight Israel's champion in a winner takes all contest. Goliath was a giant of a man about nine feet tall and when he put on his armour, he was a war machine. There was no one in the Israelite camp prepared to accept the challenge, except David, the youngest son of Jesus, the shepherd boy. He approaches King Saul and says, "Your Majesty, no one should be afraid of this Philistine. I will fight him. The outcome, David goes out, armed with his sling, he picks out five stones but more importantly he goes with the unshakeable conviction that God would give him the victory. He says to Goliath, I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of Israelites. The result, one dead giant and victory for the Israelites. As we think about the giants that face us in our life, it might be illness, fear, a sense of hopelessness. As a church we are called to face those things within society that seeks to destroy those cherished principles we stand for. So, we will discover that giants can come in many forms and fashions. So, how do we confront the giants of life? What resources can we draw on? We find the answer from David. Maybe we could

think of those five smooth stones that David gathered symbolic of five 'spiritual stones' that will help us face up to the giants that face us. There is courage. David faced Goliath with courage

To face a giant with courage is to go forward with confidence. Courage, someone has said, "is fear that has said its prayers. Someone once said, to be a Christian in this country, in this day, takes courage. We should be encouraged through the promise that God, through the Holy Spirit, offers us his strength and power to be his people. The second spiritual stone is trust. Goliath was armed with his javelin, sword, spear and armour, his military.

Adoration, Confession & Lord's Prayer

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Therefore, being justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Almighty and Eternal God, our loving heavenly Father, you are the giver of all life and breath and hope, so we come to worship and glorify your holy name. The whole creation has come into being through your power; and we rejoice that your purpose of creation is a loving purpose. You have revealed your love for us in Jesus Christ: and we have been brought to a living faith in him are privileged indeed. So, with his people throughout the world we join our offering of worship to the offering of worship that rises constantly from earth to heaven. 'Lord Jesus Christ, we want to witness to your love, to share with others what you have done for us, and to reflect something of your love through the people we are. We want to be a light to those around us, proclaiming your saving love through our words and actions. But we do not always know how, or where, or when. We mean to speak out, but, when the moment comes, we are nervous and tongue-tied, uncertain as to what to say, afraid of doing more harm than good, we fear that our clumsy efforts might turn people away from you rather than help them consider your claims.

Sometimes we lack faith, not sure whether anyone would want to listen and at times unable to believe our witness would make any real difference, and so we keep quiet.

Lord, for our failure to make you know, forgive us.

Lord Jesus, teach us that it is not in the cleverness of our words that has the power to change lives, but the message of your love and the wonder of your grace.

Teach us that you can use our witness beyond our wildest expectations when it is offered from the heart, a spontaneous and genuine expression of all you mean to us. Teach us to trust you, confident that you will give us the words to say when we need them, and give us faith to leave the rest to you. Save us from making excuses or from evading your challenge, and so help us, openly and honestly, to speak for you and so live to your glory.

In your name we pray, Amen

Intimations:

Bible Study/Prayer group will meet on Monday 20th January in The Church Hall at 1.30pm. Please give this some thought and come along. You will be given a warm welcome.

Friday 7th February 7.30pm – We are inviting everyone to come along to our Family Quiz night which includes' entertainment by Joan's Angels, in St Columba's Hall. While this is a free event, any donations received will be donated to charity. BYOB however nibbles will be provided. To reserve a ticket, please contact Lauren on 07738689121.

The Guild with John Knox Guild will meet in the church hall on Tuesday 4th February at 2pm. The speaker is from 'Crossreach' which is one of the Guild Projects both Guilds are supporting this session. All welcome.

CONTACT NAMES:

Interim Moderator: tbc

Session Clerk: Mrs. Mary Mitchell Tel: 01560 482742

Clerk to the Board: Mrs. Sheila McGill Tel: 01560 483594

Locum: Rev. Andy Black

Organist: Mr. Joe Auld

Order of Service: Mrs. Janice Granger

e: stewartonstcolumbas@gmail.com

Please send notices to the above email address no later than 6 pm on Monday.

Thank you.