**Bible/College Class Notes – *Great Differences* –Lesson 103**

**Great Differences: Lessons from David & Solomon**

# This week – God has promised to help believers through all life’s trials and problems. NOTES Aim To demonstrate that only those who put their trust in the Lord will know success against the powerful enemies which everyone encounters in the battle of life. We will learn that those who put their trust in carnal weapons such as swords and shields will eventually be humiliated, whereas those who humbly put their trust in the Lord, though they may be inexperienced and lightly armed, will be victorious.

**David said to Goliath, the Philistine, “For the battle is the LORD’s, and He will give you into our hands.” 1 Samuel 17v47.**

In this lesson we learn Different Approaches to the Battles in Life. David asks God for help and succeeds against Goliath.

**Background to Today’s Lesson.** God had rejected King Saul due to his wilful sinfulness and disobedience.The idolatrous and wicked Philistines attack Israel again.The armies encamp on either side of the Valley of Elah, ready for battle. We note that Saul was a seasoned warrior; fighting was a way of life for him. Nowadays he would be a professional general as well as king.

Imagine the battlefield in those days with thousands of soldiers assembled on either side of the valley of Elah, housed in tents, ready to engage in conflict as soon as their officers gave the word. Battle plans would be made in a pavilion arrayed with flags of war. Imagine Saul and his men dressed in armour for battle in the valley of Elah confident that they would defeat the army of the Philistines. Saul had become proud - setting himself above the law of God. He had shown contempt for the Lord’s servant Samuel and as a result the Lord had withdrawn His power from him

**2**

**Notice The Different Approaches To Life’s Battles. King Saul and David**

**Saul – Proud, Self Confident** – but God had withdrawn His powerful support. **The Unbeliever** – Proudly rejects any thought of God. **‘I can do it myself.’ Our country has a Christian heritage which we have benefited from – good laws, family values, social order, welfare provision, free education and many other benefits. All influenced by Christians in past years. But over recent years these have been eroded by sinful influences such that today we can no longer be called a Christian country. Our leaders live with a confidence that we are better off without God and true Christianity. They scorn those who teach the moral values of God's Word and have changed our laws to permit many evil practises.**

**David –** **Humbly Seeks** **God’s help** and trust Him for success. **The Believer –** Knows they need God’s help. **‘I cannot do it myself.’** **Do we reject God and His help, ignoring all the blessings that He has showered upon us?**

**Saul is Taken Off Guard -** Goliath Appears and Challenges Them. **Goliath, the Philistines’ Champion,** 3 metres tall, **9ft 6 inches**  His armour was huge and very heavy. ***“And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.”* 1 Samuel 17v5-7. He shouts across the valley *“I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.” “Whoever wins will win the battle.”* Goliath’s challenge was repeated every morning for 40 days.** **Saul and his army were petrified. No one would volunteer.** Not even Saul. **Due to unbelief** - None had thought of praying to God to seek His help.

**3**

**A Different Reaction – Faithful David Appears on the Scene.** He is not considered strong enough or old enough to fight against the enemy. He had been sent by Jessie, his father, to visit his 3 eldest brothers who were in Saul’s army. As a believer in God, he is offended by Goliath’s insulting attack upon the LORD and His People. **David’s reaction was totally differen**t. **He did not cower away’ “How dare this Philistine speak so insultingly about our God and His People. How dare he defy the armies of the Living God?” “Someone must demonstrate that the Lord is with His people. Someone must prove that the Lord who had promised to protect His People was alive and was the one and only true God.”** ‘I will fight Goliath. The LORD will be with me and give me the victory.’

**Different Weapons** – **David Had Faith in the LORD his God. At first David was ridiculed by his brothers and by King Saul. But David refused to be intimidated. King Saul reluctantly accepted David’s offer to fight Goliath, and offered David armour, a helmet, breastplate, a sword and shield.** But David was unafraid, his absolute faith in God prevailed. Said, **‘I do not need your armour. I will use my trusted sling.’ How courageous! He knew the Lord would be with him as He had been when minding the sheep when lions and bears had attacked. He had rescued the lambs that they had taken and had killed them using his sling. David wanted to show everyone that God would give the victory.**

**David would use his spiritual armour. Ephesians 6v16-18. “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”.**

**4**

**Two Kinds of Weaponry for Life with Two Different Results:**

**Picture the scene. The heavily armoured giant towering over the apparently unarmed lad. Goliath was insulted that a mere boy should come to fight him, and that without any armour or a sword. Yet even when he roared at David and threatened to hand his carcase to the birds and beasts, cursing him in the name of his heathen gods, David remained calm and determined in his faith in God. This is what David said to Goliath, *“Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield, but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day, unto the fowls of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”* 1 Samuel 17vs 45-48.**

David the placed a smooth stone in his sling and swirled it round his head and then let go. The stone made its way accurately to Goliaths’ head and fatally smoot him so that he fell to the ground. David then took Goliath’s sword and cut off his head. God had given David the victory. The enemy fled and Israel pursued.

**David wrote from experience, *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him.”* Psalm 28v7**.

**There are circumstances in life which no human, however clever, experienced or enlightened, can handle. We notice this all around us. It is only those who know the power of the Lord who can face the battles of life with the quiet confidence that David showed against Goliath.**

**5**

**Unsuccessful – Unbelievers, proudly saying, ‘I do not need God.’ ‘I will live for myself.’ ‘I can cope with all difficulties.’ ‘Even death’. No thought of facing death and God’s judgement. Unbelievers trust in a variety of things – possessions, selfish ambitions, entertainment, drink, drugs, etc. to see them through life.**

**Successful – Believers**, Using the same weapons as David did: -**Salvation** – Knowing the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and LORD.**The Prayer** **of Faith** – Taking all things to God in believing prayer.**God’s Guidance** – Seeking it and obeying the principles of God’s Word.**God’s Help** – Recognising that all life’s problems need God’s help.**God’s Word** – Reading it daily, meditating upon it, and obeying it.

Unbelievers may be amused and scornful of them, but God's children have the Lord with them, and their lives are made powerful. Worldlings just have no idea how real and powerful the Christian life is.

So, let's ask ourselves, ”What armaments do we take up in the battle of life?” Will you trust in the equivalent of Saul's armour, or in David's weapons? You could well be told today that in order to succeed all that matters is doing well at study, or at work, getting good jobs, or ‘looking after yourself’ to get what you can, in whatever way you can. There are those around us who would encourage us to lie and cheat and to be very aggressive to get what we want. They believe this kind of attitude will enable them to get most pleasure and success out of life.

David looked pathetic and unarmed. Yet David without the royal armour of King Saul was protected by a more wonderful set of armour - through faith in Almighty God.

One day, everyone will meet their ‘Goliath’ – Death. How will the unbeliever fare having lived without faith in God?

6

The self-confident unbeliever becomes a coward at death. They will have no defence, not having the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, or the breastplate of righteousness, provided by God for the Christian through their true faith and repentance.

David, when he faced Goliath, was assured of the upholding and protecting hand of the Lord, and the true believer in Christ faces death as the doorway into His eternal presence, Heaven. A great adventure. The Christian recognises his own weakness and has confidence in His Saviour’s strength. Stronger than a thousand Goliath’s!

See how foolish it is to remain a worldling! As a believer you may feel very lonely and awkward as you stand for the Lord in daily life. David’s own brothers were unkind to him, and Goliath had contempt for him. Saul offered his help of armour, but David preferred to use the armour of God – Faith, etc. So when you experience difficulties in life and opposition to your faith in Christ think often of the Lord, as David did, and you too will experience great victories in life. and at the end, victory over death.

**Important Thought for us Today: How can I know peace in my soul even in times of trouble*?*** We must know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and LORD, as without forgiveness of sin we can have no peace with God. The Lord says, ***‘My peace I give unto thee.’*** **John 14v27. The Lord Jesus Christ has made peace with God for us by dying in our place on Calvary.**  None but born-again believers know this blessing of the Holy Spirit. We must pray in faith for this peace when trials and troubles come our way, remembering that nothing happens to us outside of the LORD’s Sovereign will and purpose, which is always for our good. We may have strayed away, and the Lord is calling us to repentance, or to come closer to Him for greater blessing in our Christian Walk. **Remember the LORD will hear and answer us.**

**7**

Let our daily prayer be that God will bless us with His peace in life, and in death.

***Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”.* Philippians 4v6,7.**

**For the believer, death is the doorway into Eternal Heaven. Not so for the unbeliever. It is the doorway into God’s eternal wrath.**