

Let's Review The Plan (Part 9)

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

My question for you today is... Are You Following God's Plan? (Check off all that apply)

Have you been BORN AGAIN, through believing in Jesus and by confessing and repenting of our sins.

Are you FOLLOWING JESUS by CHOOSING Him over everything else, allowing Him to CHANGE us inside and out, and COMMITTING to pick up our cross daily and follow Him?

Are you TRUSTING in GOD {with all your heart and in all your ways acknowledging Him} (rather than leaning on your own understanding) for His PLAN, PROVISION, TIMING, POWER, and COMPASSION?

Are you obeying His command to LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

Are you assuming your personal responsibility for carrying out Jesus' mandate to FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Are you GROWING?

Are you following His plan for GIVING - obediently, willingly, cheerfully, humbly, generously, expectantly and even sacrificially, knowing that through it God blesses us pressed down shaken together and running over

Are you actively FORGIVING others as Christ has forgiven you - forgiving broadly, quickly, specifically, deeply, repeatedly, completely and unconditionally?

We cannot truly say that we are interested in God blessing us and prospering us if we are not interested in knowing and following His plans for our lives.

Each part of Gods plan is interconnected, progressive and dependent on other parts. In other words as we follow one part it opens up the doors for us to be able to follow other parts of God's plan

For instance last week we talked about forgiveness if we aren't following God's plan to walk in forgiveness, we will never be able to truly walk in this next part of God's plan - GIANT KILLING FAITH

Now nothing exemplifies the principles of Giant Killing faith better than the story of David and Goliath. I want to take those lessons and combine it with what the New Testament teaches us about Mountain Moving Faith as we Review this part of God's plan for our lives.

1 Samuel 17:1-50

17 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. (*9' 9" as opposed to the tallest man on record in modern history verified by Guinness book of world records who stood 8' 11"*) 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels (*125 pounds*) ; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels (*15 pounds*). His shield bearer went ahead of him.

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." 10 Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." 11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah (*36 pounds*) of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from

them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.”

20 Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. 24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

25 Now the Israelites had been saying, “Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.”

26 David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, “This is what will be done for the man who kills him.”

28 When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

29 “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. 31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of

them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

Matthew 17:19-20

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

20 He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as (as, *like, in like manner*) (a grain of) a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

So before we circle back to David's **GIANT KILLING FAITH**, I want to expose some misconceptions about **MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH** or **MUSTARD SEED FAITH**

1. It's **SMALL**

Why would Jesus say you have "so little" or small faith and then turn around and say you only need small faith

As small as (the word "small" is not in that passage (AS {an adverb} like - in like manner - in the same way)

Interpret scripture with scripture

Matthew 13:31-32

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

What kind of faith does a mustard seed have - **BIG FAITH**

It may look small - but it has **HUGE** potential (1 -2 Milimeters to 2.7

Going back to the story of David... Remember that in comparison to Goliath, David was small. In fact, in comparison to all of his brothers, David was small. Remember, Samuel wanted to look at the size of the person, but God told him to look at the size of his heart. God knew that David had Giant Killing faith and so he had Samuel anoint him.

David's brothers continued to see him as small and insignificant (those few small sheep)

Saul saw David as small and inexperienced

Goliath despised David for being small and incapable

But the point of the parable, in my opinion, is that it becomes something it is not.

2. There's **NOTHING** for us to do

Notice that in both passages in the New Testament about Mustard seeds and in the passage about David and Goliath; there are steps that had to be taken in order for the affect of the faith to take place.

Say to this mountain

Seed must be planted

David took many actions (like volunteering to fight the giant, preparing by collecting 5 stone, meeting the giant on the field of battle, running towards the battle, using his sling, and even cutting off the giants head)

3. It's EASY

In order for a mountain to be moved, there has to be a mountain in the way

If taking on Goliath was easy, why didn't anyone else want to do it?

4. It sees IMMEDIATE RESULTS

Yes, sometimes there are immediate results, but other times it is a long-term process that requires maintaining your faith and trust in God

Again notice the analogy of faith to the Mustard seed. It takes time for it to grow and become established.

Goliath wasn't the only Giant that David had to conquer before he became King... Defeating Saul would take many years of maintaining his faith in the plan of God

5. There's NO BATTLE Involved

David still had to face Goliath... It involved preparation, weapons, it involved fighting

6. It DENIES REALITY

You don't look at the giant and say it's not there

You wouldn't look at a gushing wound and say, by faith I declare there is no wound

You would take what steps you need to take and are capable of taking in order to insure you are victorious over that wound and stop the bleeding

Giant Killing faith, prepares, it fights, it perseveres but it leaves the outcome in God's hands... It trusts that the battle belongs to the Lord

1 Samuel 17:47

47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

So how can we have the kind of Giant Killing Faith David had? How can we have Mountain Moving Faith like Jesus spoke of in Matthew 17

I think it is helpful for us to take another look at the Story of David and Goliath

Will you be CONTROLLED by FEAR or FAITH?

11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. 24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

26 David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

Will you choose to RECITE your POSSIBLE FATE or your POSSIBLE FUTURE?

37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

David had been anointed King... We have been anointed by God to be victorious people of faith in this world

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Matthew 18:18

18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Will you FOCUS on the SIZE OF THE GIANT or the SIZE OF OUR GOD?

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

Will you UTILIZE the WEAPONS OF MAN or the WEAPONS OF GOD?

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Corinthians 10:4-5

4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all

this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Will you DWELL on PAST DEFEATS or PAST VICTORIES?

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

Will you MINIMIZE or MAGNIFY?

The spies that went in to the promised land came back and chose to minimize and magnify the wrong things. The acknowledged the size
of the blessings of the land but then spread this report

Numbers 13:32-33

"And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.'"

See the Giant or Mountain for what it is but do not minimize what God wants to do through you
neither magnify the size of the problem into something it is not

Romans 8:31, 37

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

37 No... we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Will you RUN AWAY or RUN TOWARDS the battle?

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

Will you decide to FIGHT or take FLIGHT?

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

Hebrews 10:36-39

36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.” 38 And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.” 39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.