

### III. PREPARE FOR THE BATTLE

<sup>40</sup> *"Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine."*

I Samuel 17:40

#### A. Prepare spiritually.

<sup>21</sup> *"Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."*

II Timothy 2:21

#### B. Prepare physically.

<sup>28</sup> *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—"*

Luke 14:28

### IV. FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE WHICH IS TO GLORIFY GOD

<sup>29</sup> *"And David said, 'What have I done now? Is there not a cause?'"*

I Samuel 17: 29

<sup>49</sup> *"Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.*

<sup>51</sup> *Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled."*

I Samuel 17:49,51

Our "cause" is to glorify God in everything.

<sup>31</sup> *"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

I Corinthians 10:31

### CHOOSE VICTORY OVER DEFEAT

### FORK IN THE ROAD

#### Choose Wisely

#### Choose Victory Over Defeat

Pastor Steve Reynolds

#### Introduction:

A. Every day we face critical life choices that shape our future decisions about faith, relationships, priorities, and adversity.

B. In the Fork In The Road Teaching Series we'll explore how God guides His people when life presents difficult choices.

<sup>21</sup> *"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."*

Isaiah 30:21

Through Scripture, prayer, and practical wisdom, we'll learn how to choose God's path by discerning His voice, avoiding costly detours, and walking confidently in His will. Because the choices we make today determine the roads we travel tomorrow.

April 5

Choose Life Over Death

April 12

Choose Faith Over Fear

April 19

Choose Better Over Bitter

April 26

Choose Right Over Wrong

TODAY

Choose Victory Over Defeat

TEXT: I Samuel 17:1-51

David provides an example for us to choose victory over defeat.

<sup>29</sup> *"And David said, 'What have I done now? Is there not a cause?'"*

I Samuel 17:29

## HOW TO CHOOSE VICTORY OVER DEFEAT

- Goliath was a champion fighter. He was also a really big man. Therefore, the Israelites were afraid of him.

<sup>4</sup> *"And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span."*  
I Samuel 17:4

- David courageously announces that he will fight against Goliath.

<sup>32</sup> *"Then David said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.'"*  
I Samuel 17:34

<sup>12</sup> *"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."*  
I Timothy 4:12

### I. TRUST THE LORD FOR THE VICTORY

<sup>37</sup> *"Moreover, David said, 'The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.'"*

I Samuel 17:37

<sup>45</sup> *"Then David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

<sup>46</sup> *This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.'"*

I Samuel 17:45-46

Faith is confident obedience to the Word of God regardless of circumstances or consequences.

<sup>32</sup> *"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah also of David and Samuel and the prophets:"*

Hebrews 11:32

## II. DO NOT LISTEN TO DOUBTING CRITICS

- ### A. Eliab criticized David for being rebellious.

<sup>28</sup> *"Now Eliab, his oldest brother, heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, 'Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.'"*  
I Samuel 17:28

- ### B. Saul criticized David for being young.

<sup>31</sup> *"Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.*

<sup>32</sup> *Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."*

<sup>33</sup> *And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."*  
I Samuel 17: 31-33

- ### C. Goliath criticized David for being weak.

<sup>42</sup> *"And when the Philistine looked about and saw David he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good looking.*

<sup>43</sup> *So the Philistine said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.*

<sup>44</sup> *And the Philistine said to David, 'Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!'"*  
I Samuel 17:42-44

- ### D. David rejected the criticism and ran forward.

<sup>48</sup> *"So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine."*  
I Samuel 17:48