

WHERE IS DAVID TODAY?
1 Samuel 17

Intro: What is a baccalaureate service?

The dictionary defines it as a service in honor of a graduating class at which a sermon is preached.

What is a sermon?

Again, the dictionary gives a definition -- made up of four parts:

- 1) It is a discourse -- which is an orderly communication of thought in speech or in writing.
- 2) It is to be delivered in public -- usually by a clergyman.
- 3) It is for religious instruction.
- 4) It is grounded on a passage of Scripture.

All of this is from the dictionary!

So -- to meet the qualifications, we should choose a passage of Scripture.

And -- since I have been asked to speak, I am to talk about that Scripture passage.

And furthermore -- I am to talk about it in such a way that you graduates learn something. I am to instruct you.

And, since it is to be "orderly," I ought to have an outline so we can all see where we are going, and we will know when we get there.

The Bible passage is 1 Samuel 17.

It tells us about an incident in the life of one of the most important of all people in the OT: David. And so we are going to be thinking about David.

My outline is made up of 7 words:-- all beginning with "P."

- 1) The Person.
- 2) The Problem.
- 3) The Proposal.
- 4) The Preparation.
- 5) The Procedure
- 6) The Purposes.
- 7) The Performance.

All of you surely know this story, so I will not have to

spend a lot of time on the details. What we want to do is to learn why the Lord gave David this experience, and why it is recorded for us in the Bible.

I. THE PERSON.

It is David! -- a young man, a shepherd.

The Bible has a lot to say about young people: Joseph, Daniel, John, Timothy -- and many others. You need to get acquainted with them because they will be a great help and inspiration to you.

II. THE PROBLEM.

This was very unexpected. David did not ask for it. He did not know that it was coming. It was one for which he was not prepared -- at least not completely prepared. He was a shepherd, not a soldier.

The problem was GOLIATH. What an ominous description is given of him in vv. 4-7.

III. THE PROPOSAL.

David had come to visit his brothers, and this is where he heard the challenge which no one had answered in the 40 days in which it had been given.

But David did! His indignation would not let him be silent. See what he said in v. 32.

IV. THE PREPARATION.

This is one of the main parts of the story as we will see. There were two kinds of preparation that were going on:

- 1) That which Saul did when David came to him.
- 2) That which the Lord had been doing in David's earlier life -- as a shepherd.

Saul's plan could not work, but the Lord's plan was just what Israel needed at this time.

V. THE PROCEDURE.

Note David's "five smooth stones."

Note also Goliath's contempt for David -- because he was a "youth" -- the same thing that had given Saul his hesitation!

But see David's response in v. 45.

VI. THE PURPOSES -- THE MAIN PART OF MY MESSAGE.

A. The first -- v. 46b. Note: "the living God" in vv. 26, 36.

B. The second -- v. 47.

VII. THE PERFORMANCE -- not David's, but the Lord's!

See vv. 48 ff.

Application: WHERE IS DAVID TODAY?

My idea: Not where he actually is, but where are those young people in our generation who are like him?

Do you suppose there is a young man or a young lady in the graduating class of PCHS who will catch the spirit of David and make known to this generation the presence and power of "the living GOD"?

Remember David did not make his circumstances, nor did he seek his own glory, but he had his eyes on the Lord when all that the other Israelites could see was Goliath!

Let me close by giving you three things to take with you:

1) God's will. You are going out into the world at a very bad time in the world's history. You will not make your own way. The Lord has already planned that. He will surprise you many times. You will never know when you will be called upon to take a stand -- and to take it when no one else will! Be like David.

2) God's Word. This is where you will learn of Him.

Do you know Him as your Savior? You may have gone through 12 years of Christian schooling, have come from a Christian home, and you may have been raised in a good church, BUT NONE OF THESE THINGS WILL MAKE YOU A CHRISTIAN. Do you really know Him?

Are you walking with Him?

Are you learning to trust him?

Do you love Him?

3) God's ways.

V. 47 shows the tremendous lesson that David had learned -- not from men, but from the Lord.

You will always be disturbed when you face a problem if you do not know the truth of Psa. 20:7.

You and I will always fail if we walk in our own strength. The Lord never fails.