

June 14, 2023 – Making Decisions - P6

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday , June 14, 2023 – Spring Semester
Queens Chapel UMC * 7410 Muirkirk Road * Beltsville, MD 20705
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### **Making Decisions According to God’s**

#### **Direction for Your Life**

##### **Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)**

“In their hearts, humans plan their course, but  
the Lord establishes their steps.”



#### **6. Facing the Giant of Fear**

“Don’t be afraid, because I am with you Don’t be intimidated; I am your God.

I will strengthen you. I will help you.

I will support you with my victorious right hand.”

**Isaiah 41:10 (God’s Word Translation GWT)**

Week 1: The Power of Prayer

Week 2: What are the Facts?

Week 3: If you don’t know ask Somebody— (godly counsel)

Week 4: Count the Cost

Week 5: Expect Complications

**Week 6: Facing the Giant of Fear**

Fear is part of the root of indecisiveness. Fear you might make the wrong decision or a mistake. Fear that you will fail and everyone will laugh. Fear of being embarrassed.

There are times when we’re afraid to commit because we may not be successful. Fear of being rejected because you don’t measure up to everyone’s expectations reflects on the perceptions of how we see ourselves.

For example:

- Abraham said, “I’m too old to have a child” (*Genesis 17:15-16*)
- Moses said, “I stutter” (*Exodus 4:10*)

- Gideon said, "I'm too weak" (*Judges 6:16*)
- Isaiah said, "I'm a man of unclean lips" (*Isaiah 6:5*)
- Jeremiah said, "I'm too young" (*Jeremiah 1:6*)

### What is your excuse?

### How many times have you turned down opportunities because of fear?

Complete this statement:

**"If it were not for fear, I would or would not have \_\_\_\_\_"**

*Procrastination* is one of the most common forms of fear. It's easy to put off tasks or challenges because we're intimidated by what we see, what we hear, the unknown, the unexpected or in some cases, success.

The story recorded in **1 Samuel 17 (NLT)** is about a young man named David who had a heart for God. He volunteered to face a giant that an entire army was afraid of.

David didn't volunteer to fight the giant because the army his brothers happened to be a part of was in danger. David fought the giant for two reasons. (1) Goliath was defying the armies of the living God he loved.

The second reason is very easy to figure out in this true story. One thing is for sure, David never backed away, he didn't hesitate nor put off until a better opportunity came to fight the giant.

He fearlessly faced the Giant that incited fear in one of the most powerful armies of that time.

#### **1 Samuel 17**

**"The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. 2 Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. 3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.**

4 Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! 5 He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. 6 He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. 7 The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.

8 Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! 9 If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! 10 I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

### Jesse Sends David to Saul's Camp

12 Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shimea—had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines.

14 David was the youngest son. David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, 15 but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem.

16 For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

17 One day Jesse said to David, "Take this basket of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, and carry them quickly to your brothers. 18 And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along, and bring back a report on how they are doing." 19 David's brothers were with Saul and the Israelite army at the valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.

20 So David left the sheep with another shepherd and set out early the next morning with the gifts, as Jesse had directed him. He arrived at the camp just as the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. 21 Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel.

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. 25 “Have you seen the giant?” the men asked. “He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man’s entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!”

26 David asked the soldiers standing nearby, “What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?”

27 And these men gave David the same reply. They said, “Yes, that is the reward for killing him.”

28 But when David’s oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. “What are you doing around here anyway?” he demanded. “What about those few sheep you’re supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!”

29 “What have I done now?” David replied. “I was only asking a question!” 30 He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer. 31 Then David’s question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

### David Kills Goliath

32 “Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”

33 “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”

34 But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!”

38 Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. 40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. 44 “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

45 David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. 51 Then David ran over and pulled Goliath’s sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

### Israel Defeats the Philistines

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the men of Israel and Judah gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron. The bodies of the dead and wounded Philistines were strewn all along the road from Shaaraim, as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 Then the Israelite army returned and plundered the deserted Philistine camp. 54 (David took the Philistine’s head to Jerusalem, but he stored the man’s armor in his own tent.)

55 As Saul watched David go out to fight the Philistine, he asked Abner, the commander of his army, “Abner, whose son is this young man?”

“I really don’t know,” Abner declared.

56 “Well, find out who he is!” the king told him.

57 As soon as David returned from killing Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. 58 "Tell me about your father, young man," Saul said.

And David replied, "His name is Jesse, and we live in Bethlehem."

### **The Spiritual Metaphorical Picture:**

- Goliath represents Satan
- The Philistine Army represents the principalities and powers in our world today
- David represents the believer indwelt with the power of the Holy Spirit

### **Ephesians 6:10-12**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

### **The Emotional Picture:**

- Goliath represents an emotional challenge we face as a human being
- The Philistine Army represents emotional challenges such as *fear, disappointment, loneliness, worry, guilt, temptation, anger, resentment, doubt, procrastination, failure, jealousy, etc.*
- David represents the believer indwelt with the power of the Holy Spirit

### **I John 4:4**

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Fear is a giant that also shows up in excuses:

- I don't have the time
- I don't have the money
- I don't have the experience
- I don't have the education
- I don't have the contacts
- I don't have the resources
- If only I were older
- If only I was another race
- If only I were younger

God created us with talents and abilities to fulfill a certain purpose while we're living on earth.

*"God has always used imperfect people in imperfect situations to accomplish God's perfect will."*

*Created to Dream by Rick Warren*

If we're waiting on that perfect time, situation, opportunity, or reason to make a decision, we'll be waiting for a very long time. The perfect situation does not exist.

People may call it the perfect opportunity but it wasn't. He/she made a decision to step forward and made it happen. The best opportunities often take place in the middle of situations that were not perfect.

### **The best antidote to fear is Faith**

Faith will motivate us to:

#### **1) Confront Your Fear Honestly.**

- Discover what your fear is.
- What is it that gives fear permission to live in your mind

**Proverbs 29:25**

"The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe."

## 2) Confess Your Fear as if it were a Sin

### Isaiah 41:10

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

- God's Word says "Do not fear" in many ways throughout Scripture. But what does that mean? Are we wrong to feel fear when we're not sure how to pay next month's rent or when we get that dire health diagnosis or when our job is on the line?
- No. We're not wrong. God wired our brains to experience fear. It is a primary emotion.
- When God's Word encourages us not to fear, God is not commanding us to shut off a part of our brain.
- The real issue God wants us to wrestle with is where we go when we fear. Whom do we call when we face our fears? How do you deal with them?
- Fear becomes a sin when we allow it to take us to places God does not want us to go.**
- God wants us to confess that we're afraid but to also place our trust in Him.

### Psalm 46:1-3

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

## 3) Claim God's Promises in His Word



**Joshua 21:45**

"Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."

**1 Kings 8:56**

"Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses."

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory."