

*The story-teller presented the story of David and Goliath in a different way to a group that had to work within the confines of a strict management environment.*

The Department of Defense was gearing up for the upcoming conflict. The land had been invaded by an enemy's army, which presented a very real and significant threat. The army of the Kingdom was positioned to confront them, but the soldiers and their leadership were in a state of near-desperation due to their perception of the weakness of their own forces.<sup>1</sup>

Though the enemy had a great advantage over the people's army, they had not yet attacked. They were enjoying the saber-rattling pre-battle activities, working with propaganda to intimidate the army of the Kingdom. They displayed the power of their weapons in an attempt to demoralize the people. This had been going on for over a month, with the military leaders wringing their hands trying to decide what to do.<sup>2</sup> They were immobilized by fear, and were desperate to gain an advantage by which they could win a victory and save the Kingdom.

There were regular challenges by the enemy to meet in order to display their relative combat power. They suggested a contest which offered overall victory to the winner, and servitude to the loser – without a horrible destructive war (not that they really meant that they would serve if they lost). Their chief challenger, who was a giant in physical appearance, presented his taunt every day, laughing at the weakness displayed before him.<sup>3</sup>

There was a young man named David who worked in the supply chain,<sup>4</sup> who suggested, once he heard the challenger<sup>5</sup>, that he had an idea about how he could oppose the champion. His own family belittled him (passing on the intimidation that they felt)<sup>6</sup>, as he was not qualified with respect to the normal military organization; he went to the King anyway and offered to fight in the contest.<sup>7</sup> The King was offering great rewards<sup>8</sup>, but the young man David was only interested in defending his country.

David tried to encourage his leader<sup>9</sup>, who had lost heart and was ready to throw in the towel. The King claimed that David could not possibly win, as he was too young and inexperienced. But David convinced him that he was experienced enough with a guided missile<sup>10</sup> technology and the method of using it that he was sure that he could win. He also had faith that God was on his (their) side.<sup>11</sup> The King finally gave David the approval to proceed.

But there were many steps to be taken in that approval process. The King loaded David down with many time-consuming requirements<sup>12</sup> that had to be completed before he would be allowed to participate in the contest. David tried to follow all of the regulations, but the crisis would not wait. He finally informed the King that he would not allow himself to be so overburdened, and would go to battle before it was too late.<sup>13</sup> He took in hand a simpler, less costly, and more agile solution.<sup>14</sup> The King was wise enough (or desperate enough) to allow the accelerated procedure.

As David approached the battle line, his giant opponent sneered at him and claimed that he would totally destroy David and his people. He ridiculed the godly foundation of the nation<sup>15</sup>. David was not bowed by this and even predicted his own victory<sup>16</sup>. In the passing of only a moment, the giant was taken down, killed with his own weapon, and the enemy army routed.<sup>17</sup>

The victory over the giant acted as a trigger or catalyst that re-ignited the courage of the people's army and they pursued their enemies until victory was complete and the spoils of war were plundered.<sup>18</sup> Vss 52-53 And the young man David won respect for thinking "outside the

box” and rose rapidly in the ranks of the Kingdom as a subject matter expert. Believe it or not, He eventually became King Himself.<sup>19</sup>

1. 1 Samuel 17:1-3
2. 1 Samuel 17:4-7 & 16
3. 1 Samuel 17:8-11 (consider that Goliath might have been their only real weapon... They might have been bluffing!)
4. 1 Samuel 17:17-19
5. 1 Samuel 17:20-24
6. 1 Samuel 17:28-29
7. 1 Samuel 17:32-35
8. 1 Samuel 17:25
9. 1 Samuel 17:32
10. guided by God, of course
11. 1 Samuel 17:32-37
12. consider Saul’s armor, 1 Samuel 17:38-39
13. 1 Samuel 17:38-39
14. 1 Samuel 17:40
15. 1 Samuel 17:41-44
16. 1 Samuel 17:45-47
17. 1 Samuel 17:48-51
18. 1 Samuel 17:52-53
19. 1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Samuel 2:4, 2 Samuel 5:3

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