

Sunday June 23, 2024

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

Maybe you don't just have one Goliath. Maybe you have his whole family!
—Joyce Meyer

Malcolm Gladwell has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1996. He is the author of *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, and *What the Dog Saw*. In 2015, he published *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*.

I mention this because today's Bible reading tells the story of two ancient combatants: David the underdog and Goliath the giant. The story has become a classic literary motif championing the cause of the underdog. Think of the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeating the Russians in 1981. The upset was known as the "Miracle on Ice."

Think of Joe Namath in Super Bowl III guaranteeing a victory for his lowly Jets against the mighty Baltimore Colts. Think of Erin Brockovich doing the impossible — taking down Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

But Gladwell has a different take on this classic account.

The appeal of the story is that the boy gets the giant. The outsider versus the insider. The weak versus the strong. But Gladwell notes: "Goliath is not what we think he is in a profoundly crucial way. The thing that makes Goliath seem strong is the source of his greatest weakness. . . . And David is also not what you think he is. Part of what's fascinating is how many scholars, particularly Israeli scholars throughout history, have been fascinated by this story and written accounts of what exactly David's weapon was. And we now understand that his weapon was not a child's toy. It was a devastating weapon. So devastating, in fact, that the minute he decided to use a sling against Goliath, the tables were turned. He's not the underdog anymore."

So when we realize that Goliath is much weaker than we thought and that the shepherd boy David actually has a superior weapon, we then know that the giant doesn't have a chance.

What is your weapon when you face your inner giants? Is it prayer? Is it a strong faith in God? Is it your knowledge that "all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose?" (Romans 8:28).

Yes, there is no "giant" that cannot be brought down. Why? Because a person of faith has stronger weapons.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, today I will face my giants without fear. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** John 14-17
- Monday:** Hosea 11-14
- Tuesday:** 2 Kings 18-19
- Wednesday:** Isaiah 1-3
- Thursday:** Isaiah 4-6
- Friday:** Isaiah 7-9
- Saturday:** Psalms 64-66

Verse to Remember

"I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

—John 14:6

THE PATH FROM 1 TO 100

Directions: Draw a pencil line from square 1 to square 100. You may do this only by moving to an adjacent square (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) whenever you can **add, subtract, multiply or divide the number in your present square by 2 or 5 to get the number in an adjacent square.** For example, from a square with a 6 in it, you could move to a 30 (6 x 5) or an 8 (6 ÷ 2). Find a path from 1 to 100. **Solution below.**

ANACROSS: There are three clues for each 7-letter word: a definition, a pair of words that are an anagram of the answer, and the letter C already in the diagram. The center column reading down will reveal a bonus word.

1	5	7	20	30
2	3	22	6	28
4	25	8	14	19
20	16	13	55	95
18	9	50	59	100

C						
	C					
		C				
			C			
				C		
					C	
						C

<p style="text-align: center;">DEFINITIONS (from top row to bottom row)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guilty one 2. School subject 3. New member 4. Chef's domain 5. Skunk 6. Popeye's veggie 7. Of the stomach 	<p style="text-align: center;">ANAGRAMS (from top row to bottom row)</p> <p>CLIP + RUT NICE + SEC CURT + IRE NECK + HIT CLAP + TOE CHIN + ASP GRIT + SAC</p>
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Solution to "The Path from 1 to 100": 1-2-4-20-18-16-8-6-30-28-14-19-95-100.
Alternate solution: 1-5-3-8-6-30-28-14-19-95-100.
Solution to ANACROSS: culpfit, science, recruit, kitchen, polecat, spinach, gastric. Bonus word: percent