

Brave, Strong, Known and Loved—Protection Not Perfection- January 16th and 19th, 2020

Scripture: Ephesians 6.16-17

1 Samuel 17.34-39 (NIV)

³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off.

Ephesians 6.16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Read and Discuss

Introduction

Pastor Jacob continued his series to kick-off 2020. We are reminded that as children of God, we were created to be Brave, Strong, Known and Loved. Paul wrote in the letter to the Ephesians that we have certain attire that we can put on in order to live out our identity in Christ. This week Jacob focused on Paul’s words in the Letter to the Ephesians that describe the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Engage the Scripture

- Read 1 Samuel 17.34-39. What do you notice about David’s new armor? What are the kinds of armor (protection) offered to you by others? Which seem to fit you? which don’t? How do you go about putting down the things that don’t work for you?

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- By taking off the armor that was offered to him, David had nothing to protect him from the giant, Goliath...except the promise of God's anointing. Have God's promises ever helped you get through something that seemed impossible? Describe.
- Read Ephesians 6.16-17. This passage describes the remaining pieces of spiritual armor that Paul tells followers of Christ to wear. What do the shield, helmet and sword represent? What is unique about the sword in comparison to the other pieces of armor? Can you picture yourself carrying the shield around during your daily life? What are some of the arrows that you would want to extinguish?
- We heard some teaching about the devil from Jacob.
 - *The devil's trick is to take you down, not take you out.*
 - *The devil can't take our salvation but he can steal our joy. When have you lost your joy in the middle of a pretty good life? How might the promise of salvation pull you back up?*

Pray

Pray this memory verse for 2020. If you are in a group, consider keeping your eyes open as you pray and speak these words over one another.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (repeat) Amen.