

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## **HUMILITY AND FAITH OF DAVID**

“When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. The men of Israel said, ‘Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father’s house free in Israel.’ Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, ‘What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?’ The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, ‘Thus it will be done for the man who kills him.’ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s

anger burned against David and he said, ‘Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle.’ But David said, ‘What have I done now? Was it not just a question?’ Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before,” 1 Samuel 17:24-30. What I love about this chapter is not only the demonstration of David’s courage and unwavering faith in the power of the Lord, but also his humility and acceptance of his place in life. It is revealed in the question he asks towards the men at the battlefield. By continually asking the question of what would be given to the one

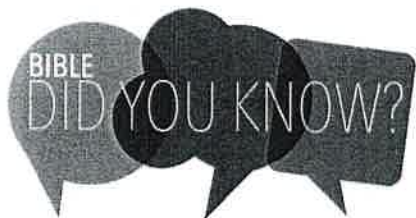
who defeats the Philistine, he expresses his amazement that no one has been able to receive the reward. In David's mind, it is a no brainer. Anyone who stands up against Goliath would certainly have the power of the Lord on their side and so by continually asking the question in the manner he does, David is simply asking why the reward still stands and why no one has taken it upon themselves to claim it. But by asking the question, he is also demonstrating his humility. Even though we learn David has no doubt that he could defeat the giant, he understands his place as the youngest in his family and one who has not been tested in any fashion as a warrior worthy to enter the battle. While some in David's situation may have asserted themselves and without even asking went ahead and put themselves in the battle, David is much more subtle and humble about it. He never oversteps his position but rather waits until Saul calls David to himself to volunteer to slay Goliath. "When the words which David spoke were heard, they told them to Saul, and he sent for him. David said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine,'" 1 Samuel 17:31-32. This is a great

lesson to observe. David had a right to his question, pointing out the absurdity of no one accepting the challenge of the uncircumcised Philistine, as he later defends, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?" 1 Samuel 17:29. Even though it agitated his older brother to hear him bringing this up, David had a good point and a right to bring it up that no one should stand for a minute to let Goliath go on like that, let alone for the past 40 days (1 Sam. 17:16). His honest justifiable question doesn't sit well with his oldest brother, who feels chided by David's words and then seeks to put David back in his place, as older men often do when someone younger points out their flaws. "Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, 'Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle,'" 1 Sam. 17:28. But not only is David not out of line with the question, he is also respectfully accepting his place as a young shepherd boy who doesn't have a right to put himself in the battle until Saul calls him himself. "Do

not claim honor in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; for it is better that it be said to you, 'Come up here,' than for you to be placed lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen," Proverbs 25:6-7. While young men have a right to simple questions regarding the direction of the leadership they observe of the older, there is also the proper time to become engaged in offering the solutions. It wasn't until the words of David going around the camp speaking with such confidence of the certainty of someone being rewarded for taking down the Philistine finally entered the ears of Saul and was called to stand before Saul himself that he finally offered to kill the giant. I have a feeling that David knew what he was doing starting a sort of whispering campaign that would eventually place him standing before Saul to execute his plan. When young men feel certain that a different course of direction is needed, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that, and those who are older should not feel threatened or hurt by it or take it personally, as David's older brother Eliab did. But young men must also humbly and patiently wait for the appropriate time to assert

themselves in such situations, as David showed through his humility and tact in dealing with the failure of the men to deal effectively with the taunts of Goliath.

- Daniel Ruegg



***"But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."***  
**Matthew 25:26-30**

# People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



## ***Nehemiah's Wall Found***

It was supposed to be a simple salvage operation to repair a crumbling Hasmonean tower. But after Dr. Eilat Mazar and her team started excavating, they soon realized that this project would be far more. By the time they were done, they had made a sensational discovery. Situated in the City of David, at the upper northern end of the Stepped Stone Structure, the Northern Tower was a poorly constructed fortified structure. It had the remains of a *mikveh* (ritual purification bath) on top. The Northern Tower was largely unearthed in the 1920s. Until 2007, archaeologists, including Dr. Mazar, generally assumed the tower dated to the Hasmonean period (second century B.C.E.). By 2007, the Northern Tower was in a perilous condition, at risk of collapse. The structure had clearly been built quickly in antiquity, with its stones loosely cobbled together. Most significantly, nearly a century of nearby archaeological digs had compromised its structural integrity. Without immediate intervention, the tower would collapse. Early that year, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) attempted to carry out restoration work, yet the soundness of the tower continued to deteriorate. Thus, the IAA approved Dr. Mazar to lead a salvage excavation to repair the tower. During the excavation it also became clear that the Northern Tower had been built at the same time as a straight section of wall atop the Stepped Stone Structure and that the tower and this section of wall were part of the same edifice. Though the discovery of the Perian wall and tower was unexpected, when considering the historical sources, it is entirely unsurprising. The Bible discusses just such a wall, at length and in great detail. The biblical account of "Nehemiah's wall" is well known. Studying Nehemiah's account, Sr. Mazar noted that the construction of the Northern Tower and associated wall matched precisely with the biblical account. Not only did the dates match, so did the quality of construction, built hastily – just as Nehemiah recorded.

