

1 Samuel 17:38-39

So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

We all know the story of David and Goliath and this is what was happening before David went out to face Goliath. But we sometimes forget this part of the story that's in today's devotional verses. So, what was going on was that king Saul wanted David to put on his armor to face Goliath. Now if you know anything about king Saul, it says that he was a tall man.

† **1 Samuel 9:2** *And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.*

So imagine this teenager, putting on Saul's armor that would engulf him, like a little kid putting on his dad's shirt, as the kid gets lost in it because it's so big. But Saul was not thinking, or should I say he was not open to what the Lord wanted to do, because Saul wanted David to defeat Goliath his way. But doing it Saul's way and using Saul's armor just didn't fit, or feel right to David, because it wasn't God's way. So *David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.*

As much as David wanted to be obedient to the king, his heart was more obedient, and was in tune with God, and David choose to do it God's way, which if you think about it, seemed a little off base and puny compared to Saul's way.

† **1 Samuel 17:40** *Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.*

If you were to go out and fight a giant, would you want a couple little rocks, or full armor, and a shield bearer and a sword? Well, if you didn't know the story you would choose the armor and sword. But if you think about it, and if you did do it that way, you would get puffed up and think that you did it on your own with the sword and armor. But using just a couple little rocks, probably about the size of a small plumb, who could say that they defeated a giant themselves with just a tiny rock? No one.

But we all know the story and that David was going in the name of the Lord, not in the name of Saul. So, he didn't need Saul's weapons, he just needed God.

Ok, you may be thinking, so how do I apply this for me today?

So many people have advice on how to do things, especially when it comes to ministry. But don't get me wrong, there are those who have done what you are called to do and their council is probably very good. But let me ask you this, have you prayed and sought the Lord and how He want's you to do things?

Think of King David once again and when he wanted to build a temple for the Lord. He even inquired of a prophet who said to go for it. But then after that prophet went home, the Lord spoke to him and told him to tell David, that it was a great idea, but it wasn't His (God's) plan.

† **2 Samuel 7:2-5** *that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?""*

God's plan was for King David's son, Solomon to build the temple.

† **1 Kings 8:18-19** *But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.'*

Or sometimes people will try things the world's way. Like, hey you need some money, then you need to get a loan from the bank, then you need this and that and you need this education and that education and on and on and on. Show me one instance in the bible where someone needed to get a loan to start a ministry?

If something isn't feeling right about a ministry that you feel the Lord is calling you to do, it's likely that you are trying it Saul's way instead of God's way, because it just doesn't feel right or it won't even work.

So just do it the way that the Lord has called you to do it. His way!!!

† **Isaiah 48:17** *Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go."*

† **Psalm 127:1** *A song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*