

## 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.*

A raise of hands today. Who reading this wants to serve the Lord?

I see a bunch of hands going up.

Now, how many of you are actually serving the Lord in some sort of capacity?

Hmm, I don't see as many hands.

I think a lot of times, people do not serve the Lord because they think that they don't have what they need to do it. Be it abilities, resources like money or even support from others. If you feel that way, let me make this one statement as to why you may be failing in ministry or feel like you would fail in ministry.

*"You are wanting to serve the Lord with your own abilities and resources and not with the Lord working through you."*

Now don't turn away, but listen up. If you read the bible, God often will use very little as far as material things or even number of people to accomplish His will, and He does that so that we can't boast in what we did.

† **Judges 7:2** *And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'*

But think about this. We are all vessels created by the Lord. And as a vessel, we can associate it with maybe a cup or a bowl. When you go pull a cup or a bowl out of the cabinet to use, you pull an empty cup or bowl (vessel). After you do, you fill that empty vessel with whatever you intend it to be used for. Maybe it's for a nice hot cup of coffee or tea in the morning, or to pour milk into or a smoothie or juice or whatever you want to drink out of that cup.

The empty bowl, you could fill it with cereal, or soup or cut up fruit or yogurt or rice or whatever you decide to fill it with so that you can eat out of it.

That's what we are, an empty vessel just willing for the Lord to fill us with something that would be useful to others. The cup or bowl comes to you empty, and it doesn't try to fill itself with what it thinks you want in it, or what it wants to fill itself with. But that's what we do sometimes, we tend to say this is what I need to be filled with (Usually worldly things) in order to serve the Lord, and that's usually when we fail.

In today's devotional verses, this is talking of David when he was about to go face Goliath. King Saul heard about this and even though David was a young man, and a lot smaller and skinnier than Goliath, Saul was at the point that he didn't care. He was just happy to have someone come forward to face Goliath. With that, Saul gave David his armor to wear. Now if you read the description of Saul, you find out that he was a tall man, in fact taller than anyone in Israel.

† **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.* (underlined for emphasis)

So here is this much smaller young man trying to wear armor that was way to big for him. You see, King Saul was trying to defend the people with his own resources (his armor) instead of allowing God to use this willing vessel (David) who God wanted to pour into to defeat His enemies.

Saul was well meaning, but he wasn't following God, that's why Saul never fought Goliath himself, because he was so full of himself, that God could not pour into him.

† **1 Samuel 16:14** *But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.*

But if you read of David and how he described God, you can tell that he was a vessel that wanted to be filled and used by God, because he knew his own resources were not good enough.

† **1 Samuel 17:37** *Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"* (underlined for emphasis)

So, going back to my first statement of, "some of you are not serving because you are depending on your own resources or abilities" and hopefully you realize that you need nothing more than to be an empty vessel and just allow the Lord to fill you and work through you.

† **2 Timothy 2:20-21** *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*

