

## Outline

- I. Here's David standing up to the enemy, operating in faith, and doing nothing but good things that should be admired and praised.

*And Eliab his [David's] eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.*

1 SAMUEL 17:28, BRACKETS MINE

- A. Yet when his older brother heard it, he railed on him.
  - B. Eliab turned on David and began to question why he came.
  - C. David was submitted to his father, who had commanded him to go.
  - D. Everything David was doing was exactly right.
- II. If you're going to be a giant killer, you need to recognize that criticism will come your way.
- A. If you get a different attitude and start operating in faith instead of fear, if you stand up to your giants instead of running from them, if you recognize your covenant rights and privileges—and start speaking forth your faith—you will be criticized.
  - B. When you believe for victory, speak forth your faith, and go for it, you condemn the average person's mediocre life.
  - C. That's the number one reason they criticize and fight against you.
  - D. If what you're saying about walking in health, prosperity, and joy is true, then they're wrong.
  - E. These folks who have been moaning, bellyaching, and using these things to excuse their ineffective, defeated, and powerless lives are going to be condemned by what you say.
  - F. They have to do one of two things: repent and change, or criticize.
  - G. Very few people repent, because it requires integrity and taking responsibility for their attitudes and actions.
  - H. Most people will just try to discredit and stop you.
  - I. Instead of climbing up to your level, they'll just try to pull you down to theirs through criticism.
- III. Eliab was there when David was chosen as the next king (1 Sam. 16:13).
- A. He saw Samuel hear from God and pass over him—and all the others—in favor of the runt of the family.
  - B. Eliab was angry and jealous, thinking, *Why didn't God choose me?*

- C. Then on the battlefield with Saul's army, Eliab had been just like all the other soldiers—hiding from Goliath.
- D. And here came his little brother saying, “*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?*” (1 Sam. 17:26).
- E. It forced him either to admit “My youngest brother here is the one who's right. He's a powerful man of God and I'm a zero—a nothing” or contend “I'm right and he's not” and then impute some kind of wrong to David.
- F. This happens all the time in court!
  - i. When a person testifies and gives condemning witness against someone else, nine out of ten times this is what the lawyer's tactic will be.
  - ii. They'll turn on this witness and try to discredit them.
  - iii. If they're successful in their effort, then the court just throws his testimony out, and all of the damage it could have done is reversed.
  - iv. This is done on an individual basis too.

- IV. If you get the attitude of David, start basing your evaluation of things on the covenant, and get bold enough to speak it, you will be criticized—I guarantee it!
  - A. Many times this criticism comes through the people who know you the best: your family.
  - B. After Jesus' own brothers mocked him, He said,

*A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.*

**MARK 6:4**

- C. The people who know you the best have a hard time believing that there's really anything special about you, because they know you.
- D. Since they're basing their judgment on outward appearance, it's hard for them to really see what God has done in you.
- V. I'm not saying that all the criticism is mean and malicious or that you can't overcome it.
  - A. I'm just saying it's natural.
  - B. The people who know you the best are still going to consider you as their little brother, neighbor, coworker, or whatever.
  - C. They don't know what God said, and they can't see what's happened on the inside of you.
  - D. But after a period of time, they can.
  - E. If you're going to become a giant killer, criticism will come.
  - F. When you start trying to overcome your problems instead of just sitting down and being overcome by them, when you begin to believe and speak forth your faith instead of just running and hiding like everyone else, you'll be challenged.
  - G. However, you can't let criticism stop you.

- VI. It doesn't matter what other people say about you; it's what you say about yourself that counts!
- A. This truth is clearly illustrated when Moses sent twelve men to spy out the Promised Land.
  - B. Ten of them came back saying, "It's a good land, but we can't take it because there are giants there!"

*We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

NUMBERS 13:33B

- C. What other people say might be a factor, but it's not the determining factor.
  - D. What really counts is how you see yourself.
  - E. Do you see yourself as a grasshopper or a giant killer?
  - F. This is a tremendous lesson from the life of David!
  - G. You need to find out who you are and what God has called you to do.
  - H. Then—no matter what criticism you might face—go on in His power and do it!
- VII. My good friend Joe Nay has made a huge impact on my life.
- A. He's the one who actually helped stir me up to seek the Lord.
  - B. Immediately after I became turned on to Jesus, I started receiving criticism from both my family and my church, and all this criticism was beginning to wear on me.
  - C. So, I went to one of Joe Nay's meetings.
  - D. Joe called me out in front of everyone and started prophesying, "Andrew, I see you going up into the grandstands to argue with these spectators. But even if you win the argument, you're going to lose the race."
  - E. That was a powerful word that really ministered to me.
  - F. When you start going for it, Satan raises up people to criticize you.
  - G. His purpose is to divert you from what you're supposed to do.
  - H. You need to get to the place where you don't let criticism change you.
  - I. Stay on track, and don't let it change your message!

- VIII. That is exactly what David did.
- A. After his brother said all of these things, he responded,

*What have I now done? Is there not a cause?*

1 SAMUEL 17:29

- B. In other words, David said, "What are you on my case for? I haven't done anything wrong!"

*And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner.*

1 SAMUEL 17:30

- C. David just turned to the next guy and repeated the same words, “*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?*” (1 Sam. 17:26).
- D. He didn’t let his older brother’s criticism slow him down one bit!
- E. If you are going to be a giant killer, you’re going to have to get beyond criticism.
- F. If you’re going to start overcoming problems and bring deliverance to yourself and others, you’re going to have to get to where you aren’t so touchy.
- G. Who cares what other people have to say about you?
- H. David overcame this criticism and continued to speak forth his faith.

*And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. [32] And David said to Saul, Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.*

1 SAMUEL 17:31-32

# Discipleship Questions

1. Was David doing everything exactly right?

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2. *Discussion question:* Have you ever faced a situation like David's, where someone close to you criticized your actions, even when you were doing what you were supposed to do? How did you deal with the situation?

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3. If you're going to be a \_\_\_\_\_, you need to recognize that \_\_\_\_\_ will come your way.

4. True or false: If you get a different attitude and start operating in faith instead of fear, if you stand up to your giants instead of running from them, if you recognize your covenant rights and privileges—and start speaking forth your faith—you will be wholly accepted.

5. *Discussion question:* Discuss why a lot of people criticize those who begin to speak forth their faith.

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6. Why do very few people repent?

- A. It requires a blood sacrifice and a wave offering
- B. It requires effort and time that they can't spare from their busy schedules
- C. It requires good character and an excellent lineage
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

7. What will most people do?

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8. According to 1 Samuel 16:13, where was Eliab when David was chosen as the next king?

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9. *Discussion question:* What is the significance of the answer to question #8?

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10. Many times, where does criticism come from?

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11. What did Jesus say in Mark 6:4?

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12. *Discussion question:* Find some examples in the Scriptures of people being criticized by those closest to them (like their families) and discuss what you can learn from their experiences.

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13. True or false: After a period of time, the people who know you best will be able to see what's happened on the inside of you.

14. You can't let criticism \_\_\_\_\_ you.

15. *Discussion question:* Think about what you have been saying about yourself. Do you think what others have been saying has impacted what you say about yourself? Do you feel any changes need to be made in your life?

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16. *Discussion question:* How could things have been different if the ten spies had brought back a positive report in Numbers 13:33?

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17. What do you need to find out?

- A. Who you are and how to become a muay thai fighter
- B. Who you are and what your parents want you to do
- C. Who you are and what God has called you to do
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

18. What is the problem with arguing with the spectators in the grandstands instead of running your race?

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19. *Discussion question:* How can criticism possibly change your message?

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20. What did David do after his brother Eliab criticized him?

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21. Read 1 Samuel 17:31-32. What else did David do?

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# Scriptures

## 1 SAMUEL 17:28-32

And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. [29] And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? [30] And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. [31] And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. [32] And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

## 1 SAMUEL 16:13

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

## 1 SAMUEL 16:6

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

## MARK 6:4

But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

## NUMBERS 13:33

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.