

Do Ye Not Yet Understand?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 16:5-10. "And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?"

In this Jesus is telling them, and us, "Don't you remember what I've done for you?" If he took care of them before, wouldn't he do it again? Sure he would and will always take care of his children. At times we are like his apostles, we forget and get nervous and worried about something. We need to stop and remember that the

Lord blessed us before and he will again.

Like the Apostles, we sometimes focus on the problems instead of the Lord. Man can only direct his attention on one thing at a time. When we see only problems, we are not thinking of the Lord. This is when we get discouraged and are unable to face the devil. He wants us to be afraid and to be weak. That is what doubt and fear does to a person.

Could David have been victorious over Goliath if he had focused on how big he was and how big his weapons were? Some say that Goliath stood around ten feet tall and was a champion in battle. The army of Israel cowered in fear because of him. Why? It was because they saw a big, powerful enemy whom they felt could kill them easily. David looked at things differently for he trusted in God, not in himself.

David understood that God was in control of everything. The Philistines, their army, and their weapons were not in control. God was, and is. Instead of fear of Goliath, David felt contempt for him. Here was a man, an ungodly man, although big and powerful, he was still just a man and he dared to mock God. When all of Israel fled from Goliath, David said that he would go and fight him. David didn't trust in his ability to fight,

he was a shepherd, not a fighter. He believed that the battle was God's and that he would win because God would grant him the victory. He had faith enough to step out and to face the enemy.

What did David see when he looked at Goliath? I don't think that he focused on his spear, his armor, or his sword. David saw, through faith, a target so big that he couldn't miss hitting him with his sling. He recounted his battles with lion, and bear, giving God the glory for the victory and for the battle with Goliath, even before it took place. He understood that God could and would give the victory.

The Apostles forgot that lesson at times, as we also do. Fear and doubt never won a victory and never will. Look through the bible and see that victory came about by people who trusted in God and stepped out on faith. What do we do when faced with a problem? Do we feel helpless and afraid? If so then we are defeated at that moment. Satan likes it when our hearts are filled with doubt and fear, for when it is, we have no room for faith. Fear and faith can't co-exist in our hearts. Seek God's will and trust in him. Jesus said to the man in **Mark 5**, "Be not afraid, only believe." He is in control - Do Ye Not Yet Understand?

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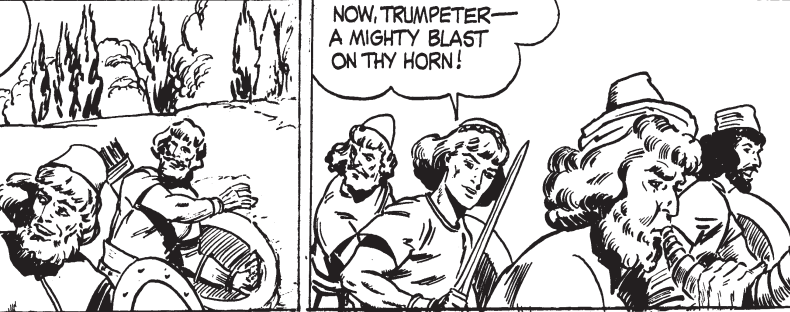
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