

Wednesday 4th November Richard Atkinson

Wear your own armour

Good morning, and welcome to this Wednesday morning devotional, a beautiful day out there today, fresh and bright. Anyway, this morning, I'm going to talk to you something God has taught me through a story in the Bible, which is what we always want, isn't it? So the story is in one Samuel 17, and it's where David comes to Saul, after being sent to his brothers to deliver them lunch, because his brothers are at the battlefield, Goliath is throwing insults at the children of Israel and nobody is prepared to go out and fight him; until David rocks up to bring his brothers' lunch. And it's one particular part of the story I'm going to sort of major on this morning that has taught me a valuable lesson for my life.

And as I said, it's 1 Samuel 17. And David eventually ends up in front of Saul, the king, and he says, 'I will go out and fight Goliath'. And Saul doesn't think that David is able to do this, but David insists that he is because he's caught lions and bears when he's been guarding his father's flock. Anyway, so I'll start from 37. And when the two verses we're going to look at are verses 38 and 39. Okay, this is 1 Samuel 17 verse 37, 'David said, The Lord who delivered me after the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine and Saul said to David, go, and may the Lord be with you'. Then Saul, verse 38, (this is a verse we're going to look at) 'and then Saul clothed David with his armour, he put a bronze helmet on his head, and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David girded his sword over the armour, and he tried to go, but he could not, for it was not what he was used to. And then David said to Saul, I cannot go with these, for I am not used to them, and David took them off'.

Now the interesting thing about this idea of Saul's that David wears his armour is the fact that he wanted to keep David safe. That's my understanding of the story. It's a good idea. You wear this armour, you're going to go up against this giant who's well armed. He has a fearsome reputation. It says in one of the earlier things that Goliath has been a warrior since his youth, but Saul suggests and David puts Saul's armour on which essentially what I'm trying to get at is, it seemed like a good idea, that David wears Saul's armour. And I like David's courage, because David, remember, as I said, he had been, he was a shepherd boy, he's just come up to deliver his brothers their lunch, that's all he's come up for and yet now he's stood in front of the king and the king is suggesting that David wear his armour to protect him. Now David, then tries the armour on, realises it's not going to fit, it's going to hamper him. And it's going to cause him to be essentially at the mercy of Goliath and probably get himself killed very easily if he wears Saul's armour.

And one of the things I've had to learn on my walk with this is there can be a lot of what seemingly come across as good ideas. Now, as I said earlier, I don't doubt that Saul's idea of David wearing his armour was for David's safety. However, it would have been to David's detriment had he ended up wearing Saul's armour if he got into the fight with Goliath, and I've had to learn on my Christian walk that sometimes on the journey that we're on, what seemingly come as good ideas can be the things that hinder us. For those of us that are born of the Spirit and we have the Holy Spirit living inside us, and we're born again, actually God is quite capable of talking to us about the way we should do things. Yes, wise counsel is very, very important and very needed and we need to now seek it out and I thoroughly recommend that. However, at the end of the day, we have to make that decision about how we are going to go forward and I know for my life, it's been a learning curve.

I know when I first became a Christian, there were a lot of things that people said to me, because I hadn't any history, Christian background, I thought, well, okay, you guys must be right about this, because you've lived this for 20 years, or however long it might have been. And in the end, I've actually had to make my own choices about matters, which is exactly what God wants us to be able to do. If David had gone with Saul's choice for the matter, he'd be dead, and he probably wouldn't have been king of Israel - well, the Lord might have delivered him in another way. However, I love David's ability to stand up, to say to Saul, who's the king, I can't do this your way. It's a kind of a bit of a demarcation point as to where David was going in his kingship. And, and also, you could have thought, while Saul then could have insisted that David carry on wearing his armour, because he didn't want the blood of this youth on his hands, if you see what I mean. So it's just a question of, I'm always a little bit careful, when I'm listening to people say stuff, and I

wonder if Saul's thing of David wearing his armour was to do with fear. It was a good intention but he was afraid David might die. And it possibly says something about where each person's faith was in the story. But as I said, in my walk, I've had to realise, sometimes it comes in 'you should do this, or you should do that, or you need to do this or whatever'.

And as I said, in the end, actually, the choice comes down to us, and how we work it out, as I said, wise counsel is very good but I love the fact that David said, I can't do this your way. He wasn't being rebellious. He was actually realising that, he was going to be put in danger if he had done it Saul's way. So it's one of the lessons that I value very highly. The Lord has taught me when I'm hearing people, suggesting stuff, and opinions and course, in this world, goodness, you only have to go on social media, and there are opinions, opinions from the news, there are opinions from everywhere as to what we should do and what we shouldn't do, and how we should do it, and why we should do it and what we should do and all of that. And in the end, actually, the Spirit of the Living God is living inside us. And we have to make that choice.

And sometimes I've had to make, I've had to make decisions. I've had to make decisions that have been right for me, when other people have suggested I do something else. And the Lord has backed me every time. As I said, David wasn't being rebellious in this situation where he turned down Saul's armour, he was realising that if he had gone ahead with it, it would have cost him his life. So I just want to say, bear in mind, that your heart will tell you what's going on with you. I know I have sometimes given into those voices and done things, and I found myself being really miserable or whatever, or very unhappy, because it wasn't what God was wanting for my life. And we have to trust in our hearts that we can hear God for ourselves. Yes, prophetic words are good and whatever. But also, we have to be careful of good opinions, and just walk our walk ourselves, but also be able to listen to wise counsel.

So really, that's it for this morning. It's like, one of the things is I say, don't wear other people's armour. Wear your armour. Because David took down Goliath, but he also had the courage to say to the king, I can't do it your way, I will do this my way. And praise God for that. But it's a message that I've had to walk through in my life. And I'd encourage you to trust in what your heart is telling you and the way you should go about something. As I said, it doesn't mean we don't need wise counsel; it's very important. And it doesn't mean we're being rebellious because we don't do it the way that other people think we should. Here's a case in point where David said to the king, 'can't do it your way. I'm going to do it my way'. But it achieved the results it was meant to. So I hope this blesses you. As I said, don't wear other people's armour.

Wear your armour and have a good Wednesday. And we'll see you again, on the next time I'm doing this. Bless you have a great day, guys. Take care.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai> Ed Perrys

