



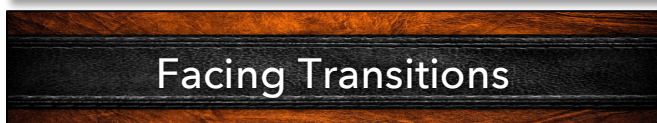
CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

June 16, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 24

UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME 2021 – Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)



By Mrs. Sonia Wallace

Please read 1 Samuel 17:1- 23, 32-49

This week the focus is on transitioning through life's seasons.

I take this opportunity to honour the memory of my father as we will celebrate Fathers' Day on June 20, 2021. I recall many precious times with him. Throughout my early years, he certainly helped me to set the parameters that would guide my future relationships and eventually my choice of a husband. These were periods of transition for me. We all transition from childhood through stages of young adulthood, to middle age and senior years. We also transition through successes and failures, disappointments and circumstances, some of which we have no control. These periods can be stormy or peaceful and especially as a child or youth, the influence or lack of influence of a father figure can have a life-long impact.

The story of David and Goliath is well known and provides insight into David's transition to another stage of his life. In summary, David was sent by his father to take food for his three brothers on the battlefield. They were aligned for battle against the Philistine army led by the giant Goliath. There David heard of the challenge to fight the giant and offered to do so.

In a study of the passage we learn the following details relevant to the situation:

1. David was the youngest of eight sons of Jesse and his three eldest brothers were in the army of Israel. Scholars believe that David was an adolescent and could have been about 5 feet tall. Goliath on the other hand was about 9 feet 6 inches tall, wore a coat of nails and bronze, and had a spearhead of iron as well as other protection.

2. The Philistines were enemies of Israel and worshippers of idols. Their chief god was Dagon – an image of half man and half fish.

3. David was a shepherd boy who went back and forth from home, playing music for Saul and keeping his father's sheep. Seemingly, this was the first time he would have ventured to the scene of armies arrayed for battle.

4. David went to the encampment at his father's bidding. He faced his own father's fear for his eldest brothers such that his father was willing to risk his youngest being caught in the heat of battle, but David did not seem to mind the risks. Rather, he embraced the immediate need for transition from just being the youngest in the family and the shepherd for his father's sheep.

Let's apply this to our current worldwide situation. I declare to fathers that we are gradually emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic to a world in transition to new norms. Parents are faced with the choice to stay away, disregard and fear the circumstances like David's father and risk your child/children being in the social and spiritual fights, twists or confusions alone; or you can pick up the challenge and jump in the different circumstances you and your children face as the world redefines or seek to erase Christian values.

Christian fathers, the Bible reminds us that we are in a spiritual battle. It tells us we fight not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in high places. Fathers, I challenge you to make the transition to a post-COVID-19 world and fight the good fight of faith, refuse to be complacent by neither recognizing nor expecting impacts of cultural changes in the Cayman Islands. Get to know the circumstances our children face in schools and the community. Spend time communicating lovingly, be there to guide, influence for good and bring clarity to confusing messages.

So in this transitional period, I invite you to reflect on a three-point strategy using the acronym M A N:

- a) **Manage** the voices
- b) **Announce** the truth
- c) **Never** doubt the presence of your Eternal Father

M

A

N



a) Manage the voices



i) Note that David heard Goliath's voice demanding that a man come out to fight him but he also heard the enemy's voice of deception.

1Sam. 17 vs. 8 & 23 state "Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why have you come out to draw up for the battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me'" and David heard him.

David's response was to refrain from accepting the deception and he instead redefined the threat. In vs 26, David stated, "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" He recognized Goliath as an uncircumcised Philistine (i.e. a man who was not of Israel and did not know the living God). He further redefined Goliath's label that they were 'servants of Saul' by reminding his countrymen that they were armies of the living God.

I encourage you not to fall for deceptive words, that sound familiar but the meanings have been changed. The truth was that to be a servant of Saul-the king at this time, was not one to be proud of, as God had rejected Saul and he was being tormented by evil. On the other hand, to be the army of the living God meant that the battle was God's, not Goliath's, not David's and certainly not Saul's.

ii) David also heard his brother Eliab's and Saul's voices. They were voices of shaming and discouragement. In verses, 28 to 30 and 33, David's brother snubbed him by stating "with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and evilness of heart; you came down to see the battle. Likewise, when he came forward to fight Goliath, Saul said "You are an adolescent and he (Goliath) has been a warrior from his youth."

David shut out these voices from invading his mind, determined there was a cause and that he would make his transition in battle. This defining moment for David was certainly like a rite of passage to being a recognized courageous warrior. We know that in earlier chapters David was anointed by Samuel the prophet but it did not mean that David did not have to stand in a place of transition and withstand the discouraging voices.

Fathers, today there are voices all around in this technological era, we hear demands, labels, opinions and the facts are too often skewed. Are you able to block the voices, redefine their words based on truth, overcome even the deficits of your own earthly father and subject these voices to the scrutiny of God's Word? Are you experiencing problems/trials in this season? In life, some of our biggest transitions take place in life's storms or battles as it was for David. Are you ready for the transition? David was sure he was ready as he knew the only living God.

b) Announce the truth



i) Prior to verse 26, David was listening but in vs. 26 he started speaking. I propose that opening your mouth gives boldness to undertake the transition. In vs. 24 he saw the men of Israel

fleeing from Goliath and in vs. 25 he heard the Israelites saying "Have you seen this man who has come out? Surely he has come to defy Israel." In vs 26 David asks "what shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?" David spoke declaring the truth that Goliath's threat was a reproach not just to Israel but to Israel's God.

ii) David told the truth about his victories and volunteered to fight and slay the giant. In vs. 36 he testified "Your servant killed both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them." In vs. 37" David said, the Lord who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear. He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."

I encourage fathers especially, to share with others about their personal experiences with God. If you know God, what has God put on your heart to share with your family members? What lessons have you learnt through the errors and mistakes you have made? I encourage you to have meaningful and empowering communication with co-workers, neighbours, community members as well as children. In Ps. 9 vs. 9, David writes "The Lord will be a refuge and a high tower for the oppressed, a refuge and a stronghold in times of trouble." In a time when many have lost jobs and have had cuts in salary, break your silence and share uplifting life messages with the audience God has given you.

c) Never doubt the presence of God, your Eternal Father



i) The enemy wants you to doubt your Eternal Father. Verse 43 of 1 Sam. 17, tell us "...the Philistine cursed David by his gods" He further threatened to throw David's "flesh to the birds of the air and beasts of the field." In cursing David by his false gods, Goliath had put himself under the curse of the living God which only further convinced David of victory.

David also recognized that Goliath had insulted the one and only true God who was always present with him as a shepherd boy. In defiance to the living God, Goliath stood on the side of evil. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us "Be well balanced, be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring, seeking someone to seize upon and devour."

ii) The Eternal Father delivers from the enemy. David's experiences with God as a shepherd had convincingly showed him that nothing was impossible for God, hence he would not be discouraged. David acknowledged that the Living God would deliver him. He stated to Goliath (vs. 47) "all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands." David did indeed cut off Goliath's head.

Fathers, David withstood the enemy by being firm in his faith in the living God. We all face situations of challenge but too often we believe we have to fight it alone whereas our situations also involve a spiritual struggle. These situations are often influenced by an enemy who is seeking to drive us to fear that torments us. Psalm 121:7 reads "The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life."

You may be a Father who has not had the experience of trusting God to overcome post-COVID-19 and other challenges. Reflect on this experience of David. As stated in Romans 10:9 believe in your heart that Jesus the Son of God died for you. Confess with your lips that you believe that the Eternal Father raised Jesus from the dead, and you will be saved. Trust Him to fight your battles and make them transitional pathways of victory. Amen!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 19. (Saturday)
Women's Fellowship Executive Council Meeting –
 10:00am -Council office

June 20. (Sunday) 4th Sunday of Pentecost
Fathers' Day

June 26. (Saturday)
Lay Leaders Training Course – 9:00am - via Zoom
Girls' Brigade Council Meeting – 9:30am-Council office



**It is that time of year again,
 when Gun Bay United Church will have its
 annual dinner sale!
 Where? Adjacent to the Church.**

**Bring your friends and enjoy the fellowship
 and food!**

July 5, 2021 at 11:00 am



on Radio Cayman 89.9
 every Sunday at 7:45 am

June 20, 2021
 Mrs. Sonia Wallace

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CHILDREN'S CAMP JULY 18-23 8AM - 6PM
TEENS' CAMP JULY 25-30 8AM - 6PM

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

SUMMER DAY CAMP

THEME: ROOT, SHOOT, FRUIT

CI\$100

FUN
 FIELD TRIPS
 FELLOWSHIP
 FOOD

VENUE: PROSPECT YOUTH CENTER

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 4, 2021

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM YOUTH LEADERS, CHURCH OFFICE AND ONLINE

A GOOD FATHER
 IS ONE OF THE MOST
 UNSUNG,
 UNPRAISED,
 UNNOTICED,
 AND YET
 ONE OF THE MOST
 VALUABLE ASSETS
 IN OUR SOCIETY

Billy Graham

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Individual Prayer:
 Every Wednesday
 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

(2 Timothy 1:7)