

Romans 15

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Matthew 5

²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

David's Three Giants

1 Samuel 17

1. David and Goliath, 1 Sm.17:4

2. David and Saul

(a) Unbelief, 17:33

(b) Worldly advice, 17:38

(c) Envy, 18:8-9

3. David and Eliab, [Ro.15:4]

I. The Brother With Heart Problems – Eliab

1 Sm.16:1-13

- Eliab was passed by, 16:6-7
- Selects David (16:10-13)? ? ?

Eliab is sick on sour grapes

1 Sm.17:28

- Additional irritation, even more severe
- Little brother outdoes him on battlefield – (Eliab's bailiwick)

Eliab: smarting over king selection

Eliab did not do what David did

Embarrassed: soldier; oldest; (16:7)

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

1. Jealousy, envy? (Even worse, 18:6-7)

- **Jealousy:** I deserve praise, too.
- **Envy:** I deserve praise; not David.

Explained by examples –

a. **Saul**, 18:8-12

b. **Cain**, Gn.4

c. **Joseph's brothers**,
Gn.37...

d. **Joab**, Abner / Amasa

e. **Herod**, Mt.2

f. **Older brother**, Lk.15

g. **Jewish leaders**,
Mt.27

h. **Jews**, Ac.13:45

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

2. Pride (close associate of jealousy, envy)
 - Wounded pride nurses grudges...
pronounces curses
 - Eliab is embarrassed, unnoticed

It's all about ME

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

3. Fear?

- Eliab was afraid of Goliath
- Even more afraid of public opinion – David his brother, the hero.

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

4. Assumption?

- Claims to know David's heart (28); reveals his own.
- Assumes the worst about David.

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

5. Judges David harshly.

- His anger is unkind, unjust, unfounded.

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

6. Shamed by David's heroism.

- His faith is not as strong as little brother's.
- Eliab ran . . . from enemy (24)...

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

7. Discourager

- Scolds David: put him in his place.
- Would prefer living Goliath to heroic David.

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

8. Anger (28) against David.

- Eliab is the one in danger (Mt.5:21-24)

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

9. Waste of energy and emotion.

- Why not spend his energy on Goliath...?

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

10. Eliab is embarrassed.

- He is firstborn (v.13); possessed authority by priority.
- Youngest brother has shown him up.

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

11. Eliab is outdone by Saul's son, Jonathan, 18:1.
 - If anyone had reason to despise David...
 - Jonathan: firstborn son of the king
 - David: lastborn son of farmer
 - Their love of God and each other overcame rivalry and competition.
 - This overcame all differences.

Eliab's actions imply serious symptoms

11. Eliab is outdone by Saul's son, Jonathan, 18:1.
 - 23:16-18, last words to David
 - Jonathan wants to serve David: be # 2

I. The Brother With Heart Problems – Eliab

II. The Brother With
Humility – Eliab

17:22

- David greeted his brothers

22:1, same persons . . .

- David's **brothers** and **all** his father's house went to him... [22:2, **David** is **captain**...]

Though Eliab has mistreated David,
David fully forgot it

Eliab has calmed down;
went to help David...

Both David and Eliab became Saul's enemies (22:6...)

- Must hang together or hang separately.
- They must have reconciled. Mt.5:23-24
 - Eliab changed.
 - Admitted he was wrong, David was right?
 - Put common good of nation over petty anger and pride?
 - We can change. [Gn.44, Judah]

What should we learn from this? (1/2)

1. We can change (repent). We can resist any temptation. 1 Co.10:13.
2. We can love our brothers. Gn.44.
3. We can consider others more important, Ph.2:3.
4. Giants could make or break God's people. Nu.13:33. Goliath is smaller scale...

What should we learn from this? (2/2)

5. God can use the most unlikely people to win victories. David. Saul of Tarsus, 2 Co.12.
6. We can live in hope and courage, even when giants threaten. 2 Tim.4:6-8.
7. David overcame by his real armor: faith, Hb.11:32. Ep.6:16.
8. David defeated Goliath, but later dropped his shield, 2 Sm.11. Fight till war is over.