

Scattering Stones

2020-09-04 Devotional

by Pastor Sharon

Can you think of a Bible story in which river rocks played a significant role? The one that jumps to my mind is the story of David and Goliath. Do you remember the story? The Philistines were at war with the nation of Israel, and one of their fighting men – a giant by the name of Goliath – goaded King Saul to send a man to fight him, with the statement that whoever won would take full victory over the other nation's army. All the Israelites were terrified of Goliath; he was a giant after all. But David, a young shepherd boy who was bringing supplies to his brothers, had no fear of Goliath. He offered to go and fight him, knowing that his God would bring him the victory. He'd done it before as David had fought a bear and a lion while defending his father's sheep. So Saul sent David to fight Goliath. And what did David take? Five small river rocks; smooth ones, in fact, according to 1 Samuel 15:40.

When David approached Goliath, the giant mocked and taunted him because of his small stature. David's response: "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head ... All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's and He will

give all of you into our hands.” (1 Samuel 15:45,47) David raced towards the giant, placed one smooth stone in his slingshot, took aim and fired, and Goliath fell to the ground dead.

If you ever attended Sunday School you may remember this song:

Only a boy named David;

Only a little sling.

Only a boy named David;

But he could play and sing.

Only a boy name David;

Only a rippling brook;

Only a boy named David;

And five little stones he took.

And one little stone went in the sling,

And the sling went round and round.

And one little stone went in the sling,

And the sling went round and round.

And round and round and round and round

And round and round and round.

And one little stone went up in the air...

And the giant came a tumblin' down!

By: Arthur Arnott 1931

David took five stones from the river bed that day, but with God going before him only one was needed!

Kathie Lee Gifford, in speaking of her late husband, shared how, on a trip to Israel, they had visited the river-bed where David had picked up those five stones. While there, Frank picked up a stone and tucked it in his pocket. He kept that stone. And whenever people came to visit their home and asked to see Frank's many trophies (he was a star football player, coach and TV commentator), he'd show them all the sports medals and awards he'd won, but then he would stop and tell them that the most significant thing in his trophy room was a stone. And he'd pick up the stone that came from that river bed in Israel and he'd tell his guest how David, in the power of God, used one stone to kill a giant and change history for his people. And Frank's question whenever he held that stone personally, and whenever he showed the stone to guests, was always: "What stone has God placed in my (or your) hand today ... and how great a difference is that stone going to make in this world as I/you trust in Him?"

We each have a stone in our hands today. And God's question is, what are you and I going to do with the stone He has given us to change this world for the better?