



Summer Playlist

Part 3 – It’s Not What You Think

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The part of today’s series is called *It’s Not What You Think*. We start to think some things and then we start to really dig in and then it’s like *Wait a minute, that’s not what I thought at all*. We are going to look at a couple of those things. I’m going to show you some pictures first to get it kicked off. It’s not what you think. It’s sounds great on the front end, but on the back end it is not what you think. It sounds great on the front end, but on the back end, it is not what you think at all.

Here’s another one. Airlines will pop on you and make you think you are going to get this huge round-trip ticket to Florida for cheap. You get these pop ups that say, “Round trip \$39” and you think it’s awesome. My wife and I did this. It was the cheapest flight right out of Branson, and we’ll get to San Diego. Then you get in there and they charge you for your backpack and they charge you for your suitcase and then they charge you for your seat and they charge you if you need special assistance and then they charge you if you need to print out your ticket. Then it’s double what it would have been to drive to Springfield.

We get to the airport, she’s got her suitcase and it’s 50 pounds. They say, “Well, we’ve reduced it from 50 to 40 pounds. You have to take 10 pounds out of that. I don’t know what weighs 10 pounds. I said, “Hold on. Let me understand this. You want me to take 10 pounds out of that, put 10 pounds into my backpack that’s going on the exact same plane.” I opened up the suitcase and everybody’s standing behind me. It’s like a guessing game like Price is Right. “Come on down!”

Here's a video – it’s not what you think. Social media is not what you think. The filters are not what you think. You can google this when you go home. I couldn’t show it at church, but there is a YouTube video of a graphic arts designer who takes a slice of pepperoni pizza and photo shops it into a bikini model. So, just think about this the next time you want to take a second glance at a lady, fellas. You're struggling with a piece of pepperoni pizza. Or ladies, the next time you want to compare yourself to a girl online, she a piece of pepperoni pizza. It’s not what you think. Social media can fool you. “Where did you get that information?” “On the internet.” It’s not what you think.

Well, there are some Bible verses that I want to share with you that are not what you think. We make them famous in popular culture, but they are not what you think.

Here’s one of them that we see all over. Philippians 4: 13... Athletes will put this on eye black, on their sneakers, they’ll put it all over and they’ll say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” I can believe this verse, but if I go grab grandma over here and we go to the bench press and I throw 400,

I'm going to kill her. But I believe that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. That's not what this verse is saying at all. There are some limitations. As a matter of fact, I think one of the most harmful things we tell kids is *you can be anything you want when you grow up*. That's not true. There are human limitations. That's a part of our humanity, right? What this means in context is Paul is saying ***I'm not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*** What Paul is saying when he says right after that, ***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,*** is "I will get through it because I have Christ." That's what he is saying. He is not saying that you're going to be an Olympic athlete because you have Christ. He's saying you can get through all things. It's important to know this. If Christ brings us to it, he'll bring us through it or to him.

Our ultimate hope is not in this earth. Our ultimate hope is Christ. If he brings us to cancer, if he brings us to divorce, if he brings us to hardship, if he bring us to breakup. If he brings us to it, he'll bring us through it, and he'll use it for our good, or he'll bring us home, which is our ultimate hope.

Here's another one that we love to plaster on coffee mugs and above our kitchen counters. ***For I know the plans it have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.*** Oh, we love that verse. Do you guys realize Jerimiah never prospered in worldly eyes? Isaiah never prospered. Peter never Prospered. Andrew never prospered. Matthew never prospered. They didn't prosper in the way you think of prosperity. Our prosperity may not be on this earth at all. Our prosperity is heaven; that's our home. Do you know what the context of this verse is? Do you know what Verse 10 is before you even see this one? ***This is what the Lord says: When seventy years are completed for Babylon,*** That's seventy years of slavery, bondage, captivity. So, if you want to prosper, do you want the seventy years of slavery that comes before that? When seventy years are completed in Babylon, ***I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.*** That's the context of that. Heaven is our home; that's the context of Jeremiah 29: 10 – 11.

Here's another one. Matthew 7: 3-5 – ***“Do not judge or you, too, will be judged.”*** We love to quote the great theologian Topock (not a theologian; he's a rapper) He says, "Only God can judge me." That's not true. You're like, "Don't judge me. Who are you to judge me?" No. Brothers and sisters in Christ, Yes, we hold each other accountable. It is biblical to hold each other accountable. What this verse (Matthew 7: 3-5) is really saying is there is a way to hold one another accountable. ***“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”*** This verse is not telling you not to judge or hold one another accountable, it's saying when you do it, do it with humility.

The most powerful way I hold... As some of you know, I disciple 18 – 19-year-olds during the year; that's my profession. When I have to call them out in their sin or call them to account for something they've done, I never do it in condescending way or a judgmental way. I usually take myself back to my 18- or 19-year-old self, when I was a much bigger fool, a much bigger idiot than they probably are in their current state, and say, "When I was 18 and 19, I really struggled with this too, or I really wrestled with

this.” And because the reality is transparency cultivates confession. So, it’s not saying don’t hold each other accountable, it’s saying hold each other accountable in humility. Don’t hold someone accountable and think you need your halo polished or that you are so much better than somebody else. We all struggle, we all have sin. It may look different in different people and in different ways, but that verse is not saying don’t judge.

Now with it’s not what you think, I want to take you through a story you maybe grew up with or maybe you’ve never heard this story. I want to take you to a story in scripture that it’s not what you think. As I’ve been diving into Malcom Gladwell’s David and Goliath, which pushed me more into studying more about this story and doing some more historical digging, I’ve been fascinated by this story because I understood this story horribly. As a matter of fact, popular culture tells you this story is all about... You see it during March madness. David vs Goliath. Or you see it in boxing matching matches. “Oh, this is a David verses Goliath...” I think all of us have grossly misunderstood this story. I’m just going to show you some facts of why.

Let’s look at 1 Samuel 17. If you have your bibles, you can turn there. If not, you can just follow along on the screen. But before we get into this, there’s a verse in the chapter before in 1 Samuel 16 when the Lord is telling Samuel to go anoint this king. The king he’s telling him to go anoint isn’t someone you and I would think should be king. So, this is the Lord’s response to Samuel in Chapter 16: 7. ***Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*** This is a really fascinating verse because we are about to get into what the rest of the men see. So, we know the story of David and Goliath. Goliath is this huge giant that takes on this little shepherd boy. And we think there is no way David stands a chance. Or does he? Or is it actually flipped? Is it actually there is no way Goliath actually stands a chance?

17 Now the Philistines... The Philistines were sea gathering people. So, they came from Crete, and they came across the sea and now they are trying to take Israel and gain more territory. ***...gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.***

Let me show you a visual so you understand what we’re reading. This still exists to this day. So, you have the Philistines who came from the seas, which is over the picture, and then you have the Israelites on this hill on the closest side. Then there is this valley that still exists today, the Elah valley. So, what’s going on is you have this whole military here on this hill, and then an entire military on this other hill, and neither one wants to go because as soon as you go down in that valley and have to start going up a hill, you are at a huge disadvantage. Everybody in military knows that the higher you are, the better military advantage you have, so nobody wants to go down in this valley. So, what happens? They want to eliminate as many casualties as possible and minimize bloodshed, so the Philistines decide to send out Goliath. “He intimidates everybody. He’s a giant; let’s just send him out there and see what happens.” So, this is what they did.

4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. Now the Septuagint and the Dead Sea Scrolls have that as four cubits and a span, and our English version says 6 cubits and a span. There are some discrepancies there, however, it's not inconsistency dependent on the translation of the ancient text. Regardless, we know that Goliath was anywhere between seven and nine feet tall. Now, unless you're playing in the NBA, seven feet is still tall today, and especially back then. Seven feet is a giant, so, regardless, he is still a giant. Coaching basketball, I'm around some seven footers and seven foot is still a giant.

Now this is important. **5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head...** Remember this. We're going to get to this in just a second. He had a helmet on. **...and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him.**

Let me give you a visual of what we're talking about here and what we're describing. So, here's this giant that is decked out in armor, head to toe, 100 pounds of armor, with a sword, a javelin. He has his little armor bearer right here holding everything. It's all put together, right? So, from this point of Goliath going out and partaking in what we call ancient day smack talking, he's out there talking smack. He's like, "Who can take me on? Who can mess with me? Nobody; I'm a giant. You guys don't have anyone on your little hillside over there that even comes close to what I am." And he starts defying the name of our living God. He talks smack and just keeps berating them, and they get more and more intimidated.

8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for 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. 9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

David catches wind of the fact that there is a stalemate and that somebody is talking smack on his God. So, he works his way to the front lines. His brother is like, "What are you doing? Get back, take care of those sheep. Why are you here? You shouldn't be here." David finds his way to Saul and as he finds his way to Saul, this is what happens. We skip forward about 13 verses.

In 1 Samuel 17: 32, **32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."** Saul was like what? "You want to go fight him?" The confidence that David had! We're going to find out here in just a second why he had so much confidence.

33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him..." Now think about it. Saul is thinking that David is going to fight him the same way that Goliath thinks that David is going to fight him. He thinks that this is going to be a hand to hand, sword to sword combat. In that sense, David stood absolutely no chance. But as we see in the text, that is not ever what David thought. David never thought this was going to be a sword fight. **...for you are but a youth, and he has**

been a man of war from his youth.” 34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him... That’s a lion or a bear. I don’t know how many of you in here would go chasing after a lion or a bear. ...and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me... So, now it’s mad and it’s turning on him. ...I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him.

You guys have to understand something. David was a really faithful shepherd so he, for years and years, kept those sheep, bored out of his mind, just slinging stones all day. That’s all he’s doing. He’s out by himself; no friends, no boys. When guys are alone, we have to find stuff to do. We get bored and stuff literally gets shot, blown up or something else, that’s just what we do. Or we catch fish. We just don’t do well just sitting and doing nothing. So, all day long, he’s with those sheep, just aiming at targets. He’s slinging this things all day. He’s doing this from dusk until dawn. He’s gone over the 10,000 hours of what it takes to be an expert or professional at it. He’s gone 20,000 hours. This is all he does from dusk to dawn. There’s no television, no book to read, no podcast, nothing. All he is doing, from dusk until dawn, is becoming an elite slinger. Let me give you the equivalent of this. This is like Stephen Curry waking up every morning shooting free throw after free throw after free throw and then going to the NBA finals and shooting above 90%.

David was so skilled and practiced at the sling it was unbelievable. Watch what happens.

36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them... He is thinking he is going to kill Goliath the same way he has taken out beasts. He is not even phased one bit. We’ve thought about this story all wrong. Because he has defied the armies of the living God, now David is mad. He says, “First of all, he’s talking smack, and someone needs to put him in his place. ...for he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” I love this because he’s talking about God’s faithfulness. The same God that’s been faithful of me on those days I’ve been all by myself in the pasture is the same God who is going to rescue me from goliath.

Watch this. Does anybody know what those are? Those are ancient day Roman tongs. But you guys need to know something. There were three parts of military back then. There was artillery, which were slingers and archers, there was horseback or battalion, and there was hand to hand combat. The most feared of all were the slingers. They were so elite at slinging. What they would do is they would get this thing going at about eight revolutions per second and then they would let go of one of these strings, which is what this little cord is right here that hold’s your finger. As you’re going and you’re slinging this thing, you just let go of this and that stone goes flying.

As a matter of fact, they said that the slinger was so good that these stones would have the stopping force of a 45 millimeter, the equivalent to the stopping force of a 45 millimeter of how fast they could get these stones going. What would happen, and why these exist, is these stones would bury themselves in the skin. They would literally be like a bullet into someone’s body. So the Roman soldiers created these tongs to go in and have to remove these stones from these bodies so they wouldn’t get infected and die if the stone shot didn’t kill them first.

That's what was amazing about these slingers. These slingers could literally hit a target the size of a dinner plate from 200 yards away. They were known to be able to hit birds out of midflight without a shotgun, my hunters. These slingers were unbelievably top professionals and David was one of them. His whole life, all he did was keep sheep and protect them with a sling. And at the cost of knocking out bears and lions with the sling.

And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off. Now Saul really has to be like "Wait, you're crazy kid. It's your own death wish. Here's sign this waiver."

But Saul was thinking the same way that Goliath was thinking. They were thinking this was going to be a hand-to-hand combat. David never intended to get that close to Goliath, ever. ***40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones...*** There is something really cool about this, too, that I studied in the history and the archeology. He takes five smooth stones. The barium sulfate is so strong over there. They think the stones over in Israel have doubled the density that a normal stone would have because of all the barium sulfate. They are not going crack or break. They had double the density of a normal stone. So, he grabs his five stones and he puts them in his pouch. He's sitting on a pouch, he has his sling, and he's ready to go to battle against this giant. Or so we think this giant. ***...from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.***

So, here he goes. This is where we are greatly mistaken. We have a guy bringing a gun to a knife fight. Who is the underdog? If I put a picture up here of one guy holding a gun and another guy holding a sword, you're all going to tell me the guy with the gun is going to win the fight. It's like that old Indiana Jones scene where that dude does all his fancy sword tricks and Indiana Jones just shoots him. That's what's going on here. Goliath is running his mouth, trying to showboat and flaunt, and David is like *I'm ready, let's go.*

41 And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. I want you to catch something that I researched, and this is crazy. For people that are abnormally tall or large, there is a disease called acromegaly, which is a disease that makes the human growth hormone respond way faster than it should. As a matter of fact, Robert Wadlow, the tallest human in the Guinness Book of world records – close to nine feet – he had acromegaly. As a matter of fact, Abraham Lincoln had acromegaly. They get to be really tall and really big, but one of the side affects of Acromegaly is your vision. You either get really nearsighted with blurred vision or you can't see very well. A lot of historians believe the reason there was a shield bearer... Goliath didn't need it; he was a giant. Why does he have a shield bearer and David doesn't have a shield bearer? And it said the shield bearer went ahead of him which means he was guiding him to the point where he was going to battle David because he couldn't see very well.

42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" He didn't have sticks. He had a singular staff and a sling. **And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me..."** "I'm not coming to you. I have a hundred pounds of weighted bronze and armor here; I'm not going to make it to you. You come here and let's go hand to hand and sword to sword." He's not thinking about the same battle... Once again, man doesn't look at things the way that God does. David knew all along how this was going to be won. David knew all along this knife boy didn't have a chance against the gunman. David knew. **...and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."** **45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.**

The same God of the armies of Israel who had been with him every single day in those pastures, all by himself where he had no distractions, no internet, nothing, just spending day and night shepherding the sheep with the Lord his God. He knew he was faithful. He delivered him from the lion, he delivered him from the bear, he delivered him time and time again. David knew that God was faithful. **46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...** If you throw God in it, you can be a Christian and talk smack too. I love it. **47 ...and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."** **48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone...**

Watch how cool this is. I learned this just recently getting ready for this message for you guys. A slinger in battle would have done something similar to bringing a clip to a gun. You're not going to put one bullet in your clip. That would be a dumb strategy, as we all know. What a slinger would do is they would have one in their sling and then they would hold the chamber like this. Then they would have the other stone in the sling. So, as they are sitting there getting after it, if they miss, they quickly grab another one way faster than trying to reach in your pouch and get it. Just like you're not going to put one in the chamber when you go into battle.

But David didn't do what normal slingers do. He didn't act as normal slingers would act. It says those other four stones remained in the pouch, which is unbelievable, which means David had so much confidence with his thousands and thousands of hours being on that field that he knew it was only going to take one stone. Those other four are just there because. So, maybe the other people wouldn't tell him he's completely crazy and stop him from going. He only put one stone in the sling **...and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead.** Y'all, Goliath had a bronze helmet on his head, which means it covered some of his forehead, which means the size that he had to land this stone to knock out this giant was smaller than the size of a dinner plate.

David is the giant. Goliath wasn't the giant. Goliath never stood a chance. He never saw it coming and David never wavered or doubted for one second. ***The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.***

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone... without a sword in his hand ...and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. All the philistines go into panic. Oh, my goodness, that is one bad Jason Borne dude.

Popular culture has completely ruined this story. This story is not about you overcoming your giant of addiction or your giant of pornography, this story has nothing to do with you and overcoming your giants. David is the giant. David is the odds-on favorite to win this battle. David is the one who has done everything he could to be prepared for this moment. More so than the champion named Goliath. This story is all about faithfulness. It is all about David's faithfulness to do the small, menial, mundane tasks that didn't seem very becoming but he did it regardless without complaint.

Changing diapers, being a faithful husband, being faithful at your work, being faithful to your kids, being a faithful employee, being a faithful church goer, being faithful in your word, being faithful in prayer. It was all about being faithful in the small things, Luke 16: 10 – ***He who is faithful in the small things will be trusted with much more.***

David was faithful and in turn, God is always faithful, batting a thousand, never missed a curve ball, never leave you or forsake you. This is all about God's faithfulness and David's faithfulness. And when we are faithful, we, too, can operate like giants because of the God we serve. This has nothing to do with you overcoming giants. You are the giant. David was the giant. And in the most beautiful way that Jesus does when he depicts parables, which I absolutely love the way he told parables to bring is closer to home. There is a parable in Matthew 25. It's the parable of the talent. Jesus is saying what heaven is going to be like. He says, it's going to be like a master who gives these talents away to these three servants. To one, he gives five, to another he gives two, and to one he gives one. Then the master comes back after a while – the master being Jesus in this parable – and to the one he gave five, he gave him five more. And to the one he gave two, he gave two more. And the one who had one had buried his treasure. But to the ones who had five and two, he says, "Well done good and faithful servant." You have been faithful over a little. You've been faithful over your sheep. You've been faithful from dusk until dawn over that flock where you had nobody watching you. And then when you had everybody watching you, all the armies of the Philistines and all the armies of Israel, you shined because you were faithful in the mundane when nobody was watching you.

John Wooden says your character is who you are when nobody sees you. "You are faithful over a little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master." Ladies and gentlemen, those are the most beautiful words you and I will ever hear when we take our last breath. When we take our last breath and we come face to face with our Maker, our Creator, the most beautiful words we could ever here are "Well done, good and faithful servant." I don't know what season you are in, but I know wherever it is and whatever it is, God is calling you to be faithful right where you're at.

He's not asking you to cut corners, he's not asking you to complain, he's not asking you to get bitter. Be faithful right where you're at. Goliath was not the giant. He never stood a chance. Nor does anyone else in our life that defies your living God. As you walk in faithfulness and as you are faithful in the small things, watch the hand of God work in your own life. Amen?

Father God, thank you so much for this family and this church body and your goodness and your grace. May we be a light this summer as we walk in faithfulness, faithful in the small things, something as easy as not running a stop sign or red lights. And faithful with our waiters and faithful with whatever small task with people you put in front of us, God. May you help us to be faithful and walk in faithfulness, no matter how mundane or menial it may seem.

Be with our body, be with our visitors, be with our friends and our family and our church, God. We just thank you so much for who you are and your faithfulness through the ages to us.

It's in your mighty and matchless name, Jesus, we pray. And all God's people said... Amen.