

# FIVE SMOOTH STONES

## Introduction

- 1) **1 Samuel 17:38-40** – *David* prepares for his encounter with *Goliath*, the Philistine giant and champion (vv. 4-11)
  - a) “In ancient warfare, a battle or even an entire war could be decided by a contest between two champions” (“ben”, *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*)
- 2) David chose “five smooth stones” from the brook to use in his sling
  - a) The *sling* was an effective long-range weapon (though less range than a bow and arrow)
    - i) Made of woven materials – wool, palm fiber rope, leather [two strings and a pouch]
    - ii) Small stones worn smooth by water would fly accurate and fast towards a target
      - a) Usually 2-3 inches in diameter; could reach speeds of 100-150 mph (cf. Judg. 20:16)
- 3) But why did David choose *five smooth stones*? Was he not meeting only *one* opponent? Did he lack the faith that one stone would be enough? Or should we learn an important lesson about how a godly person should prepare for spiritual duty?

## I) **Our Spiritual Preparation Must Be Sufficient**

- A) The element of the unknown is always present in life – cannot predict future situations
  - 1) Flesh is fallible and weak – strengthen the “inner man” more (Eph. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:7-8)
- B) We must prepare to meet challenges and then prepare *even more!*
  - 1) David may have recognized the possibility of other dangers:
    - a) Goliath had a shield-bearer with him (v. 41)
    - b) Other giants existed at the time (2 Sam. 21:15-22; 1 Chron. 20:4-8)
- C) It is wise to be prepared to meet any situation (Matt. 25:1-13)
  - 1) Think ahead to cover any contingency – bring extra “oil” to avoid falling short
  - 2) Things for which we should make great spiritual preparation
    - a) Preaching/teaching – communication of God’s word (2 Tim. 4:2)
    - b) The work of a local church (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:15)
    - c) Overcoming Satan’s temptations and deceptions (Matt. 4:2; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:13, 18)
    - d) Giving a defense of our hope (1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 4:6)
    - e) Staying strong and alert (Heb. 12:3, 12-13; Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13; Mk. 14:38)

## II) **We Must be Willing to Give Extra Effort for Spiritual Work**

- A) David gave extra effort to make sure that God’s work was accomplished
  - 1) “God helps those who help themselves” – we must be involved in God’s work for it to be done (when *everybody* is waiting on *somebody* to do it, *nobody* gets it done!)
  - 2) Do we do our spiritual work fervently and with diligence (Rom. 12:11)?
- B) In spiritual work, we should be willing to go the “extra mile”
  - 1) Enduring wrong – being accommodative to others (Matt. 5:38-42; 1 Cor. 9:19-22)
  - 2) Overcoming hindrances and excuses by study and wisdom (Prov. 4:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:15)
  - 3) Sacrificing for others of our time, money, help (Phil. 2:3; 2 Cor. 8:1-3)
- C) To follow Jesus and go to heaven, we must prepare to give a greater spiritual effort beyond earthly efforts (Matt. 7:14; Matt. 16:24)
  - 1) Put God before social activities, making time to do Bible study, pray more, etc.

## Conclusion

The **five smooth stones** of David represent his extra effort and preparation in accomplishing God’s work. He went into battle with a heart full of faith and a bag full of stones, and he won the battle (1 Sam. 17:49-51). Will we give the extra effort and preparation necessary to do the Lord’s work? Do you need to obey the gospel plan of salvation today?