

The Attackers: David Volunteers to Confront Goliath; David's Divine Viewpoint: Faces Momentum Testing, Application of Doctrine Has No Age Limit, Divine Power Trumps Human Power, Basic Training with Sheep, Lions, & Bears; Application of Problem-Solving Devices, & Doctrinal Rationale: the Battle Is the Lord's, 1 Sam 17:32–37; Equation of Honor: David's Devotion to His Duty; Douglas MacArthur's "Duty Honor Country"; David Becomes Shepherd to Israel's Sheep

1 Samuel 17:32 - David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

v. 33 - Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth."

v. 34 - But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock,

v. 35 - I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him.

v. 36 - "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."

v. 37 - And David Said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said, "Go, and may the Lord be with you."

12. Being a shepherd does not prepare a person to become a hero. Inner integrity motivated David to do the job assigned to him by his father Jesse.
13. David knew that his Jesse's flock was both a source of food and income to his family and that the sheep were vulnerable to the beasts that prowled the area. He took his job seriously and would not allow any exigency to keep him from guarding those sheep.
14. The sheep were important in this sense: they were helpless and hopeless by themselves. Without a shepherd who had their best interests at heart, they didn't stand a chance.
15. David's motivation and obligation was not to the sheep, but to his father Jesse and his family, including his arrogant brother Eliab.
16. Shepherding sheep is no walk in the park. They are stupid, they stink, and they are cowards. When one wanders off, it's the shepherd's job to go get him. When a lion or bear has a sheep in his paws, it's the shepherd's job to rescue him.
17. Devotion to duty is paramount in the mind of an honorable person. A leader must be disinterested regarding those under his care. The word *disinterest* needs to be defined:

Disinterest. That which is contrary to interest or advantage; something against the interest of or disadvantageous to a person or thing concerned.

Disinterested. Not influenced by interest; impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced; free from self-seeking. Of persons, or their dispositions or actions.¹

¹ Oxford English Dictionary, s.vv.: "disinterest," "disinterested."

18. To be disinterested means David did not care that his charge were stupid sheep; it was the duty that mattered. He was an early-day General Robert E. Lee who wrote this to his oldest son, Custis "Boo" Lee, a cadet at West Point:

Duty ... is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less.²

19. David can be said to also be an early-day General Douglas A. MacArthur, whose "Duty, Honor, Country" speech to the graduating cadets at West Point on May 12, 1962, expressed the disinterest that must be possessed by a military officer:

Duty, honor, country. The code which those words perpetuate embraces the highest moral laws and will stand the test of any ethics or philosophies ever promulgated for the uplift of mankind. Its requirements are for the things that are right, and its restraints are from the things that are wrong. The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training – sacrifice. In battle and in the face of danger and death, he discloses those divine attributes which his Maker gave when he created man in his own image.

No physical courage and no brute instinct can take the place of the Divine help which alone can sustain him. However horrible the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country, is the noblest development of mankind.

Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory, that if you lose, the Nation will be destroyed, that the very obsession of your public service must be Duty, Honor, Country.

20. David, a young teenager, understood these principles and was not only unafraid but dedicated to the idea of challenging anyone who would threaten the lives, the safety, and the freedom of his family, his country, or his father's sheep.
21. If the army of Israel was made up of sheep, then he took on the duty of becoming its shepherd.
22. The new enemy was not a lion or a bear but the nine foot, four-inch Goliath. He was probably not a Philistine but a descendant of the Avvim tribe who settled close to Gath, the city with which he was identified.
23. The one-on-one between David and Goliath took place in the Valley of Elah at a spot between the encampments of the Philistine and the Israelite armies.

² H. W. Crocker III, *Robert E. Lee on Leadership: Executive Lessons in Character, Courage, and Vision* (Rocklin, CA: Forum, 1999), 188.