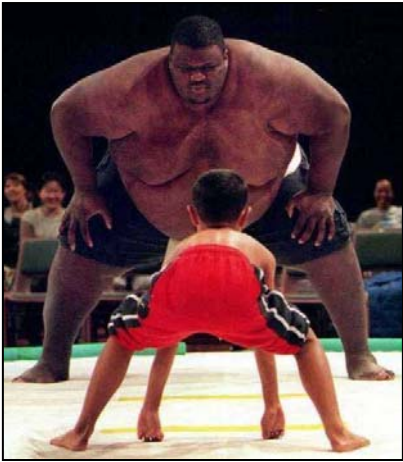




"A Man After God's Own Heart"



4. "Sharpened in Secret" (1 Samuel 17)

Henry Clay January, 2009

Fighting Goliath: The importance of preparation

It may seem like over the years we have given this story more importance than it warrants. But this is the longest narrative of any of David's battles. It is obviously significant to God as well.

1 Samuel 17: 33-37

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."...

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."

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 to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

What does this teach us?

1. The _____ of Sharpening

First, why does he want to sharpen us? Why should we want it?

Ecclesiastes 10:10 If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen *its* edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success.

2. The _____ of Sharpening Isaiah 49:1-7

Look at how God sharpens and hides his servants, even though he is planning on using them greatly.



3. The _____ of Sharpening

How do you sharpen something?

What does God use to sharpen us with?

1. Our own pursuit of _____
2. Our own battle with _____ (Gen. 4:6-7)
3. Dealing with difficult _____
4. The daily boring _____ of life and work
5. Serving under unreasonable _____

Conclusion

Days are coming that are very significant. How will you do? What if

God is planning on changing South Carolina through your life? Or if He thinks that is too little of a thing? Maybe he wants to make you a light to the nations.