Intro: 32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—

• There are many passages of scripture in which we have evidence of David’s giant faith in God. The one we have chosen is 2 Samuel 24:10-25, and in verse 24 we find David’s great statement of faith: “I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” In other words, “My God is worth the cost I have to pay”. This statement of faith is often made when people are “in deep distress” (v 14). Notice the people who made statements of faith when they were hard pressed – Hannah (1 Sa 1:27-28); the psalmist (Ps 55:15-16); Jer. (Lam 3:24); Jonah (Jon 2:2-9); Habakkuk (Hab. 3:17-19). If we are really trusting God there will be many times in our experience when we shall be led to make such heart-felt declarations of our faith to Him, in Him and of our intention to take some action which will be for His glory. Turn now to 2 Sam. 24:10-25 and let’s see where David started his giant faith journey.

I. Giant faith must be prepared beforehand – Before Giant faith happens you must:

a. Face your lions and bears – 1Sm. 17:34-36

• David was able to face his giant because he was not afraid to face the lion and bear that had earlier interfered in his life by feasting on the livestock he was watching. David said to king Saul, “I have the courage to undertake this challenge and the strength to perform it because it took on the lion and bear. I ran after the lion that had my lamb, grab him by the mane and killed him, and when the bear came, and I did the same thing. This uncircumcised Philistine is not better than the lion and bear, I will destroy him because God has assured my victory. I trust the Lord and He will deliver me out of the hand of this big mouth Philistine.

° 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. James 2:17

b. Face jealous family members – 1Sm. 17:28

• This is a good point to bring out here. Eliab knew of the bounty on Goliath. If anyone could defeat Goliath, he could marry the king’s daughter Michal, the name and prestige that would go along with being a hero, being exempt for taxes, but he would not enjoy all these things being dead. That is how Eliab saw it. David did not care for any of that, instead this uncircumcised Philistine has defied the one true God, and he is going down. David put God first (Mat. 6:33).

c. Face your personal giants – 1Sm. 17:41-47

• Facing the lions and bears, facing his family's taunting of him, has prepared him for the moment to face his giant. It is taking one step at a time that grows into Giant Faith (Eph. 4:15; 2 Peter 3:18). If you want to have giant faith you are going to have to face and slay those giant problems that is keeping you from having complete victory. David wanted to face the giant, he wanted to prove the power of God to Isreal, and he wanted his enemies to be defeated.

d. Face your enemies – 1Sm. 18:6-16

\* David had enemies all round him. 1) Saul was jealous of David’s success - and why is that. David was defending God’s honour, and Saul was cowering in the corner afraid of his own shadow.

\* The Philistines would not just go away, so while dodging the spears of Saul David went to fight for his country in God's honour. Giant Faith will always defend the Faith.

e. Facing being the outcast of your own inner family – 2Sm. 15:6, 13-17

• This is where Giant Faith is really tested. Facing lions, bears, brothers, giants, is one thing, but being tested by your intermediate family is another. Soloman was to take the throne when David dies - not kill David and then take the throne. David's training as a father was called into question here. Did I do enough, why was I not a better example to him, why does he hate me so much, etc.?

II. Who are Giants of the Faith?

The answer to this question is – the believer, the Christian, the child of God, the servant of God; and how much we have to offer Him! There is a sense in which the unbeliever has nothing acceptable to offer to Him –Pro. 15:8! Before an unbeliever can offer anything to the Lord he must receive salvation from the Lord – Ps 116:12-14; then, having taken the gift of salvation, as a believer he has much to offer to the Lord Jesus; and in each offering that he makes, a statement of faith is also made in the presentation of the offering. What does this involve for the Christian? Giant Faith Christians:

a. Those who are with Praise and thankfulness to God (Ps 116:17; Jer 33:11; Heb. 13:15).

• We should never take the goodness of God for granted. When we praise it should always follow thanksgiving. While these two may be different they should not ever be separated.

° 46 For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. Nehemiah 12:46

b. Those who are obedient (1 Sam. 15:22).

• Everything begins and ends with obedience. You need to be obedient to receive Christ, and if you are not obedient when you die you will not have eternal life in Christ.

° 22 And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. 1 Samuel 15:22

c. Those who will not compromise their walk, faith, or trust in God (Job 13:15; Dan. 3:16-18)

• We should never compromise – ever! Compromising means you don’t really believe in what you say you are living in the Christian life. You are living a life of hypocrisy.

° 26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked. Proverbs 25:26

III. How are Giants of Faith made?

a. Giant Faith should be made in God’s way

• Whether we come to God to worship Him or to serve Him, there is only one way to approach Him, and that way is by the offering that has been made by our great Sacrifice (Heb. 10:19-22). Any promise that we make, any declaration of desire and intention to serve the Lord or to give our all to the Lord, is only acceptable on the grounds of Calvary.

° 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5, 6

b. Giant Faith is made when it sacrifices greatly *-* 2 Sm. 24:23, 24.

• Araunah (arav-naw) would have given the threshing-floor and the oxen to David for David to offer a sacrifice to the Lord, but this was not good enough. David must buy them, at a cost, so that he could give sacrificially to the Lord. No-one else could do this for him. It is *our* offering that the Lord wants, not what someone else gives for us; it is *our* voluntary act of sacrifice that is pleasing to the Lord.

° 23 All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king.” And Araunah said to the king, “May the Lord your God accept you.” 24 But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 2 Samuel 24:23, 24

c. Giant of faith is not afraid to take on Giant Challenges

• From taking on huge animals, an oversized man, to a jealous egotistical King, to the enormous responsibilities of leading a nation, all lead us to believe that those with Giant Faith are not afraid to take on Giant Issues. Jesus fed 5,000 plus and in just a few weeks later he feed 4,000 plus. Giant faith is not afraid to take on Giant tasks.

° 13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” 18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:13-21

° 32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.” 33 And the disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?” 34 And Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” 35 And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, 36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 37 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 38 Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. 39 And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan. Matthew 15:32-39

Closing Thoughts:

\* *Do we allow God to teach us on how to grow into “giant faith”* - "I don't have time to pass out flyers, I don't have time to teach a class, I don't have time to come to church, I don't have time practice for choir, I don't have time to prepare my sermons. Sounds familiar. Satan knows he has but a short time. We think we have no time for God, but Satan does more for his kingdom with less time than we do for Gods kingdom with time on our hands.

\* *Do we take on challenges that seem impossible* - I know of Christians who have talent, gifts beyond normal, and will not use them for God. But when the boss, school, social gathering, or some other venue comes up they are the "life of the party", the hero that "saved the day." What a waste of your spiritual gifts.

\* *Do we sacrifice greatly for the benefit of God or our own* - do we give money to the Lord and to His work. Is it not true that many of God’s people pay all their bills, buy their necessities and enjoy their luxuries, and then, if there is anything left over, they give something to the Lord? There is no sacrifice in this kind of giving. The Lord would have us give in a sacrificial way, and any promise that we make to Him must be characterised by sacrifice.