

Sermon Notes – Sunday 19th July

The Spirit Filled Life – Choosing God’s perspective

- Can you recall an occasion when you have been able to see things differently, from a new angle, a new way of thinking.

Recall the story Stephen told in his sermon on Sunday about the revelation that came to the art critic Robert Cumming when he realised that Lippi’s painting (15th century depiction of Mary and the infant Jesus with saints Dominic and Jerome kneeling nearby) was never intended to be displayed in a portrait gallery but in a place of prayer. On his knees in front of the painting he suddenly found all the proportions of the composition that had seemed distorted fall into their rightful place. Seeing the painting from a posture of prayer brought a new perspective upon it. This is a helpful illustration of how, as believers, we can look on a ‘distorted world’ and see events from a new perspective when we approach on our knees.

Recall how the early disciples in the book of Acts, filled with the Spirit now saw life from a different perspective.

- What difference did that make for how they treated one another, viewed property, money, life’s priorities?

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-51 and consider how David, this young Shepherd boy approached the threat and intimidation of the giant Goliath compared to the army of Israel (and indeed his own brothers).

1. David knew his God and the promises that came with a covenant making, covenant keeping God for provision and protection.
2. David had a testimony of God’s deliverance in his life as a Shepherd.
3. David could only come as he was, he couldn’t wear King Saul’s armour, it didn’t fit.

Which of these characteristics of David do you need to re visit in your life and circumstances today?

V47 David knew that the ‘battle belongs to the Lord’ and has great confidence in his God.

- Share the times when you have fought the battles of life in your own strength? What happened?

Goliath would come out day after day (v16 ‘for forty days’) and taunt, ridicule and intimidate, morning and evening. What are the Giants you face that come at you day after day to ridicule you (your trust and confidence in God perhaps) and what do you do with those ‘Giants’? Listen and feel afraid or declare confidence in God?

- What is God teaching you today about choosing his perspective?