

JANUARY 19, 2022
Wednesday of the 2nd Week in OT
Mark 3: 1-6

“THE MIGHTY GOD.”

We have a saying ‘Small but terrible.’ We can interpret this with so many explanations: small in stature but big in compassion or kindness or love or intelligence. Maybe nothing in the eyes of all but greater in God’s eyes. Sometimes we judge people by appearance, but we do not know that he/she is the boss or the owner of a large company or wealthy but simple. So, do not judge we can be wrong.

Our first reading is the famous encounter of David and Goliath, one who is small and one is giant. For David his faith and trust in God is his weapon while Goliath is his worldly concept of power and rely on his own strength. “David’s confidence is in the Lord. This will be an essential qualification for a king who will rule in God’s name, a qualification which stands in strong contrast to Saul’s loss of faith. David, too, appeals to his experience as a shepherd where God had protected him from predatory lions and bears attacking his sheep. ‘Go then,’ says Saul. After all, David is the only one at least willing take on the giant, even if the odds seem overwhelming against him. And so, with Saul’s blessing, David goes forth. In his hand he bore his shepherd’s staff, the symbol of his coming role as shepherd and protector of God’s people. He picked some suitable stones from a nearby valley. These stones were usually round and smooth and somewhat larger than a baseball or cricket ball. When thrown by a master slinger, they could travel at more than 150 km an hour. Goliath is almost insulted to be facing a mere boy. ‘Am I a dog that you come out to me with a staff?’ he mocked. To be regarded as a dog was one of the lowest forms of dishonor. We remember Jesus asking the Syro-phoenician woman whether it was right to give the children’s food to dogs, an insulting term used for Gentiles, who like scavenging dogs, made no distinction between food that was clean and unclean. But David is not intimidated. Goliath comes against him armed to the teeth but, he says, ‘I

come against you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel which you have insulted.’ To insult God’s people is to insult God himself. ‘It is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves.’ David’s reliance is totally on his Lord. And this battle is not David’s or the Israelites’ but God’s.”¹ And the rest was history. David killed Goliath by the mighty and protection of God through a small young boy but with a great faith in God.

My dear sisters and brothers, that day was a great victory for the people Israel through David’s courage and faith. This was also the beginning of David’s rise as leader of the people. This story is not so much of the skill of David but God’s protection and power. By choosing David to be the leader, Israelites and Philistines recognized David as God’s chosen king. We, too, we find ourselves efficient and competent of taking on responsibilities, task, and challenges which we believed were well beyond us. St. Paul reminds us that we can do everything in Him who gives us strength because “for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”² With faith and trust in God we can do even those impossible. Let us ask therefore in this Eucharist that God may give us strength and courage to do His works and not feel discourage when face with difficulties and challenges but have faith totally in God.

¹ livingspace.sacredspace.ie

² 2 Corinthians 12: 10 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society