

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the First Book of the Prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 17:40, 42, 43, 45, 49-50)**

Then, staff in hand, David selected five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag. With his sling in hand, he approached the Philistine. When he sized David up and saw that he was youthful, ruddy, and handsome in appearance, he began to deride him. He said to David, "Am I a dog that you come against me with a staff?" David answered him: "You come against me with sword and spear and scimitar, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have insulted. David put his hand into the bag and took out a stone, hurled it with the sling, and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone embedded itself in his brow, and he fell on his face to the ground. Thus, David triumphed over the Philistine with sling and stone; he struck the Philistine dead, and did it without a sword in his hand. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

## Reflection – God wants our faith to be bold and expectant

**God fights the battle for His righteous children.** No one in the whole army of Israel except David the shepherd-boy had the courage to rise up to the insulting challenge of Goliath, the champion warrior of the Philistines for a one-on-one battle representing the war between the two armies. David came up to the battle line clad in no battle armor and unarmed except for a sling, some little stones and his shepherd's staff. Goliath, on the other hand, was fully armored and armed. David knew it did not matter how powerful and strong Goliath was because it would not be David but the Lord Who would be fighting this battle (cf. 1 Samuel 17:47). David's faith was bold and expectant. He had great love for and great faith in the living God, proclaimed his faith to the enemy and acted upon it without any doubt or fear for his life despite all odds against him. David had no fear because he knew the living God was on his side.

**Living in the Presence of the living, mighty God makes our faith bold and expectant.** We may know and assent to the truths of our faith but most of the time we do not really live it out actively in our daily lives. We often forget that our God is a living, mighty God, and we behave as if God is a spirit who is too high up there to involve Himself with our daily lives. We do not try hard enough to actively live in the presence of our living God in every present moment. Instead, unconsciously, we segregate God from our everyday life, condition ourselves to be self-reliant and self-sufficient and only call out to God when we become stuck in a situation. Let us remind ourselves and proclaim to ourselves always and everywhere with conviction: **My God is a LIVING mighty God!** We can proclaim this every day to ourselves, even a few times a day. It is a simple but effective spiritual exercise. God's mighty power flows through us when we proclaim with conviction His truths. Peter was chosen by Christ to be the head of His Church after he proclaimed that Christ is the Messiah, the Son of the living God (cf. Matthew 16:16).

**A great love for God translates into bold and expectant faith as we know Him better and grow familiar with His ways.** To know God's ways, we must love Him truly. Once we are able to love God with our entire heart, our faith will be transformed to be bold and expectant. The faith is bold and expectant because we know deep in our heart that God is loving and will do the needful for us. We really expect Him to help us and we know without a shadow of doubt that He will do it, though He may take His time and do it His own way. We glorify the Lord when our faith can be elevated to this level because underlying this faith is a solid bedrock of trust. This is why Mother Mary said to the servants: "Do whatever He tells you" (cf. John 2:5) when the wine ran out at the wedding at Cana. Mother Mary simply knew Jesus would help the couple.

**Developing a faith that is bold and expectant and which delights the Lord.** Faith in and love for God are intrinsically inter-related. God refers to David as "a man after My own heart" (cf. Acts 13:22). Mother Mary's great love for God is proven by her obedience to God in every moment of her life. To develop bold and expectant faith which delights the Lord, we need to strengthen our relationship with God, from which flows all the other human relationships. Do I live my life for God? Is He the One leading me forward in everything I do in my life? Is God in all the goals in my life? Do I try hard to live in the presence of my living God every day? Do I really try to live the truths of my faith even though I may face ridicule and hostility? Do I try hard to model my life on the life of Christ Whose time on earth is one of love and sacrifice?

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, I know that without faith, I cannot please You for the victory that conquers the world is my faith in You (cf. 1 John 5:4). I deeply desire to have a bold and expectant faith that You will delight in. Purify my heart of all disorderly passions and self-love so that I may love You ardently with my whole heart. Teach me Your ways and show me how to please You always in big and small things. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me so that I may grow in my love for and faith and trust in God. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)