

## **Conquering the Giant of Career 05-03-15**

Here are some Career Giants:

- You feel you can't move on at work, you're at a dead end... **That's a giant.**
- are you bored and totally disinterested in what you do at work?
- feel like at work you don't make a difference? **If so, that's a giant.**
- Do you have a bad boss or a toxic work environment? You don't feel like you're treated fairly, you're dumped upon, you don't get credit for the work you do. **If so, that's a giant.**
- Or do you feel like a failure? Maybe you've recently lost a job. **That's a giant.**

**Here's the Truth:** Many are not happy with their jobs, their careers, and are looking for something else to do. Nothing wrong with that. But we can be unhappy at work if our foundation is what it needs to be. And we will talk about that today.

Listen: work won't always be fun, trust me! But we don't need to be defeated every day we punch in and out at work. Whatever your Giant is, God wants to help you overcome your Career Giant. Ready to Go?

**In your bulletin find your notes—it looks like this, and pull out your message notes.** Today we are going back in time in David's life, before Goliath, before adultery, before his failures. This is the very first time David appears in the Bible, and this is an interesting story because David gets a HUGE promotion at work.

**Read 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**

### **How to Conquer the Giants in our Careers**

#### **#1. Choose to pursue a heart of integrity.**

- See, God wants to use you, but He cannot and will not if you do not have a heart of integrity.
- All of David's brothers were passed over because of this

1 Samuel 16:7, God told Samuel:

**"Do not judge by appearance or height, for I had rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them, people judge by the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. Underline that last phrase "the Lord looks at the heart".**

If you're trying to be promoted at work or at life, God is looking at your heart. He wants you and I to have integrity. Forget skills...they can be learned.

What did God see in David? Look at Acts 13:22,

**"But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do."**

David was committed to God. He wanted to do what God wanted him to do.

**There are two kinds of Christians alive today:**

- Fakers & Authentic (some say Plastic & Real)
- Fakers pay lip service to Jesus, Authentic Believers sell out for God!
- Fakers come to church on Sunday but live like the devil, like everyone else during the week. There is no difference!
- Authentic Believers desire what God wants. Key: They aren't perfect, but they keep going after God. This is David

**Big question this morning:** Which Christian are you?

- Are you a man or woman after God's heart? Do you pursue God and want to please Him in everything that you do?
- Or are you half committed? You're here on Sunday, but when you leave you live how YOU want & the way you want?
- God desires integrity inside, for someone to pursue Him. **Even at work!**
- At work, do the best job you can. Have integrity! Be responsible. Be honest when you mess up...it will pay off in the end.

Here's the second choice to conquer the giant of career stress:

## 2. Choose to do what is before me today, and do it well.

**The word is Faithfulness.** This is what God is all about.

- God places opportunities before us every day, and he waits to see if we will go after them or not.
- Look at David. What was before David when he got promoted? He was shepherding. That's what is given to him, before him each day.

1 Samuel 16:11. It says,

"Then Samuel asked, "are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats."

The Prophet comes to town, David's whole family shows up, but not David! He is in the fields. It's lowly, so he is doing it. But he is being faithful. And God brought him something bigger! And remember, God looked at David's heart.

- Are you willing to do the work that nobody else will do?
- Will you clean up a mess without complaining at work? Will you follow orders and not talk about your supervisor behind their back? Integrity starts in our hearts. Be faithful.

Ecclesiastes says, "Whatever presents itself for you to do, do it with all your might."  
-Ecc. 9:10

**So, Pursue integrity, Do what's before me well and next**

## 3. Every day, go to work for God.

Listen to what God says in Colossians 3:23,

"In all the work you're doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people." NCV

I know this may seem insignificant, but to find meaning & purpose in our work and careers, we must make this connection: "I am doing this for God!"

- When you go to work, say, "I'm going to work for God." If you work at Dart, say, "I'm going to work for God."

- If you work at Amick Farms, say “I’m going to work for God”
- Ultimately, who is your boss? God is!

If we are going to work **for God** then we should try to please Him at work.  
Listen to Paul:

“Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” - Galatians 1:10

### **So how can we please God every day at work?**

- By doing 2 things: Loving God and Loving People!

One day a man asked Jesus, “What is the most important thing in life?”  
And Jesus answered this way:

“You must love the Lord, your God, with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

If your Giant is “I’m stuck in a job I don’t like” here is how to find fulfillment:  
“Love God and love others” at work. Daily!

If your Giant at work is the ‘environment’, then how about loving people:

- by serving them, by helping others become better at their job? What about helping others on their projects before they ask for help?

If you haven’t already started, develop a prayer list of your co-workers.  
Remember, God has you there for a reason, a purpose. Do you know what His plan is for you every day at work? To love God and to love others!

By loving God and loving people, we can do almost anything with our lives.  
You have the choice. If your current job doesn’t bring fulfillment and you have integrity and are working for God, then look for another job!

- Until something else comes along, be faithful, love God and others every day
- God will be pleased as long as your heart is right
- And he rewards faithfulness all the time

**Love God at work, love the people you work with, sell to, wait upon, serve...and you will conquer all the giants you are facing in your career and work. Let's pray.**