

## Passion Killers

### 1 Samuel 17

#### Introduction:

1. Have you ever been excited about something, and another person came and, as the expression goes, “They threw cold water all over you.”
2. Unfortunately, this happens in the church, too. A person is excited, passionate, and on fire for God, but his passion for God is quenched by what I call a “fire extinguisher Christian.”
3. Here in our text, David was “*but a youth*.” We don't know his age, but we know he was viewed as a young guy. Israel was battling the Philistines, and David was so young that he wasn't enlisted in Israel's army. He was home tending the sheep.
4. But David showed up long enough to hear the Philistine giant blaspheming Israel's God, and challenging somebody in Israel to come and fight him.
5. David was young, inexperienced, and outmatched, but he had one thing going for him. He was passionate about his God, and wasn't about to allow this guy to talk that way about his God. So David went out and fought this giant, and cut him down like a mighty oak tree. vs. 49-50
6. David was red hot, on-fire, sold-out, fervent, zealous, and passionate about his God. He was 100% committed to God. Did you know that this is God's will for every believer?
7. Every believer should possess a passionate spirit towards God (Colossians 3:23). Satan does not want you to possess this kind of spirit. He would rather you possess a casual, ho-hum, detached type of attitude towards your relationship with God.
8. In fact, Satan has what I call some “passion killers” that will drain you of your passion for God. David had to overcome these here in our text, and we must overcome them too.

#### First passion killer: a lazy spirit. vs. 15-22

1. Romans 12:11 commands us to be, “*Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord*.” Slothful simply means “lazy.” Ecclesiastes 10:18
2. The opposite of lazy would be a person who is diligent. Proverbs 13:4
3. Several details of this story demonstrate to us that David was not a lazy young man.
  - Vs. 15 - Shepherding was hard, physically demanding work. David had already been anointed by Samuel to be the next king, yet he wasn't sitting around waiting to be crowned.
  - Vs. 20 – David rose up **early**, made sure the sheep were taken care of, and did exactly what his father told him to do.
  - Vs. 22 - He **ran** into the army and saluted his brethren.

4. You can tell from reading about David that he was the type of person that, whatever job he had to do, he wanted to do it the best he possibly could. He was passionate about his responsibilities and this carried over into his relationship with God.
5. When you have a lazy, slothful, ho-hum attitude towards life, this carries over into your spiritual life, too. A lack of character and diligence will kill a person's passion for God.
6. Have you found yourself getting spiritually lazy? Are you reading God's Word each day? How is your prayer life? If you are going to pray and read God's Word each morning before your day starts, it has to show up on the alarm clock the night before.
7. Why is it that we can be passionate about other things (getting up early to go to Disney, talking on the phone, playing video games, watching TV or movies, reading a book, etc.)? But, we struggle being passionate about spiritual things?
8. Is there passion in your relationship with God, or have you gotten spiritually apathetic and lazy? Repent, tell God, and turn to Him and ask God to help you to get that passion back.

#### **Second passion killer: depending on others for your passion. vs. 23-26**

1. Something stirred in David's heart when he heard Goliath, and this inward passion led to outward action. The other guys were trembling in fear (vs. 24), but look what David said in verse 26. David had an inner passion.
2. Believers cannot be looking to other people to always get them spiritually excited. This kind of passion won't last. Passion for God has to start from within, in your prayer life and your personal communion with God.
3. There was no pep rally here, nobody working David into a frenzied state, nobody patting him on the back and saying, "You can do it." Passion for God cannot come from outward circumstances; it has to come from within.
4. If you are spiritually weak, or if you stop coming to church faithfully, or if you become lackadaisical concerning spiritual things, don't blame your wife, or husband, or pastor, or youth leader, or L.I.F.E. Group teacher, etc.
5. You have to take personal responsibility for your Christian walk, and if you lack passion for your God, the place to look is in the mirror. It is nobody else's fault.
6. If your passion comes from an outward stimulus, you will be up and down. But if it comes from your walk with God, you can be consistent in your passion level.

#### **Third passion killer: allowing the criticism of others to deter you. vs. 27-28**

1. David's brother did not appreciate David's passion. Why? It made him look bad! His opinion was that David was a cocky, arrogant, prideful, naughty little runt that needed to go back home and tend his sheep.
2. This had to hurt David. Even though his heart was clean, his brother misjudged his motives. David could have allowed this to kill his passion. He could have gone into a shell and quit, but he didn't.

3. He would not allow his brother to shame him into going back home. David knew that he must make his own decision, and it didn't matter what his brother thought about him.
4. When you are passionate for God, let me warn you—you may be misjudged, misunderstood, or disliked by others. This is the risk you run when you have fervency and passion for God. You may not be popular.
5. People that lack passion in their Christian walk often try to bring passionate people down to their level, or have a bad attitude towards them and criticize them.
6. But don't let this deter you. You aren't out to please people; you're out to please God (Ephesians 6:7). You won't give account to them; you will give account to God.
  - Illustration: You get a new boss and you are passionately trying to do what he wants you to do, and your old boss comes in and criticizes what you are doing. You think, “So what, I don't give account to him any more. I have a new boss.”

### **In Conclusion:**

1. Where is your passion level for God? May this story of the young man, David, serve as an inspiration to us all to be passionate about our God.
2. David was confident that it was God's will that he fight and kill Goliath. He told the other men, “*Is there not a cause?*” David knew there was a cause worth fighting for.
3. If you aren't convinced that there is a cause, you will never be passionate about God. You will continue to wallow in spiritual complacency. Passionate people believe in what they are doing.
4. Let's not allow the passion killers to destroy our passion for God. Jesus said that the greatest of all commands is to love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.