

Title: Our God is Greater II – the mountain of opinion
Speaker: André Kruger
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Luke 3:4-6 (NKJV) as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled and **every mountain and hill brought low**; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

Perception change – I need this!

A mountain of a man:

1 Samuel 17:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

1 Samuel 17:11 When Saul and **all Israel** heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

The opinions of man will try to define us

The target: your identity – (1) who we are and whose we are (by God.)

A different response by David:

1 Samuel 17:23 (NLT) ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel.

1 Samuel 17:26 (NLT) ²⁶ David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan (uncircumcised) Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"

The opinions of man will try to define us, but the word of God in our mouths will have the final say.

1. Family (brother) – the mighty will be misunderstood

1 Samuel 17:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence (evil) of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

***Response: "Is there not a cause?"**

2. Leader (or boss) – the mighty will be underestimated

1 Samuel 17:32-33 (NKJV) ³² Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

"David killed the lion and the bear when no one was watching. It qualified him to beat Goliath when two nations were watching." BJ Our personal victories will prepare us for our public victories.

***Response: Testify - Celebrate what God is doing & has done**

1 Samuel 17:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ *Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.*"

3. Enemy – mistaken about who he was fighting

Response: Prophecy!! – "this day the Lord will deliver you into my hand..."

1 Samuel 17:45-46 (NKJV) ⁴⁵ *Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, **that all the earth** may know that there is a God in Israel.*

Altering our environment – have the final say

Acts 3:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ *Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **rise up and walk.**" ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.*