THE SLING

By

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ON BLACK:

"......IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO COULD EVER BE AGAINST US?"

-ROMANS 8:31

FADE IN:

EXT. FIELD. DAY

SUPER: THIS IS A TRUE STORY.

The Valley of Elah.

Oddly enough the first thing we hear is a majestic tenor voice. Signing praise. A young boys voice. It sounds almost feminine.

CREDITS, as we hear the angelic voice pierce the country side, we float over two armies occupying small hills on either side of the valley

CUT TO:

EXT. ISRAELITE FRONT LINES. DAY- (CONTINUOUS)

We see a young man, DAVID, carrying a sack and walking towards us. David is a slender young man, no more then 17 yrs. old. He has dark hair that hangs slightly over his ears. A MAN IN ALL WHITE walks behind him. The Man in White will never be spoken to or heard. Not even by David. He will be by David's side in every scene, yet never noticed or seen by anyone but us.

PULL AWAY

We see now that David and the Man in White are walking up to the front lines of the Israelite army.

PULL AWAY

We see soldiers streaming by them as they walk. Some soldiers are by fires others are practicing swinging with their swords. They are obviously waiting around for battle to begin. They continue to walk; looking as if searching for someone.

INT. COMMANDERS TENT. DAY

We see KING SAUL, 40, the king of Israel, sitting in the commanders tent. His apparel is lacking due to the eminent battle at hand. His top COMMANDER stands at his side. Both men are in a state of desperation. The mood is almost looming. Their conversation is slow-paced, involving thought before each response.

SAUL

The days are growing longer. The Philistines know we are persistent, that is why they mock us.

COMMANDER

They mock us because they know we are weaker.

BEAT.

SAUL

How can one man fight a battle for an entire army? We look foolish; cowardly. He has challenged my army day and night, over and over, and yet I do nothing.

COMMANDER

Goliath is not a man by most, your majesty. We have not one soldier in our ranks that even slightly compare to him. What plan do you have to execute?

SAUL

That matters not, we can not wait in this valley forever, a move must be made.

BEAT.

COMMANDER

Forgive me your majesty, but who would you have fight the giant?

EXT. ISRAELITE FRONTLINES. DAY - (CONTINUOUS)

DAVIDS FACE

David is still walking through the crowd of soldiers. Searching.

Moments later, David spots ELIAB, 26, one of his older brothers. Eliab returns the catching look. The brothers walk to each other.

They are delighted to see one another, they hug deeply.

DAVID

How are you brother?

ELIAB

Better. How is father?

DAVID

He's well. He sent this for you.

David hands Eliab the sack. Smiling, Eliab opens the sack.

INSIDE OF SACK

We can see oats, loaves of bread and rolls of cheese.

ELIAB

He is a good man, our father.

DAVID

He prays for us all everyday.

In the distance, (O.S.), shouting is heard. A mans deep and fierce voice ripples through the soldiers. We see men behind David and Eliab start streaming past them hurriedly towards the intensifying voice.

David drops the conversation with Eliab, almost as if they never had it to begin with. David leaves his brother holding the sack and walks towards the commotion. We follow David and the Man in White.

ELIAB

David.

EXT. VALLEY. DAY

GOLIATH, in full armor and waving his tree of a sword, is standing in the middle of the valley screaming to the Israelites. Goliath is just how his name sounds, colossal. He stands over eight feet tall, his rough face has seen many troubled and dangerous years. His body language alone is intimidating to say the least. This is obviously not his first battle.

We see David and the Man in White push through the Israelite soldiers to watch.

Goliaths breath is visible as his voice pierces the chilly morning air.

GOLIATH

(yelling) Is there not one. Not one that is willing to fight me?

He looks up and down the front line of the Israelite army.

We PAN LEFT across the soldiers of the Israelite army, the Man in White stands out like a sore thumb. They watch in utter awe of such a giant of a man.

Scared. Shaken. No one responds.

GOLIATH

From your king to your cattle, you are cowards! Send your God to fight me if you will not, and I will cut him too!

He spits on the ground.

GOLIATH

I curse your God! Cowards!

Goliath turns and begins walking back to the Philistines side of the valley.

DAVIDS FACE

He watches intently. The sheer voice of Goliath is enough to rattle anyone to the bone. But Davids look is one of determination. Almost as if someone had just dared him to do something he is obviously not scared of doing.

He turns and walks out of view.

INT. KINGS BATTLEFIELD TENT. DAY

Saul and the same Commander are looking over a map. Saul is drinking from a gobblet and rubbing his forehead in frustration. The Commander obviously wants to be pleasing to Saul. He tries almost too hard to say something important. His effort goes unnoticed.

COMMANDER

We can not overlook the creek bed to the north. (pointing at the map.) Our supply of troops could be divided more equally if we...

Saul interrupts.

SAUL

(frustrated) Troops are replaceable, Commander.

At this time, David walks in the tent followed by the Man in White. The Commander gives a glare as if to say "How dare you walk in without permission." Saul is curiously surprised by the visit. Its obvious that David and Saul are well acquainted and that Saul has respect for David. Almost like a respect that comes from a father to a pleasing son.

SAUL

David.

DAVID

Your Majesty.

SAUL

Why are you not with your father?

DAVID

He sent me with food for my brothers.

SAUL

How are your brothers?

DAVID

Well. They are eager to fight for you.

SAUL

(looking over the map.) Not
eager enough. (As if to say
"Then why don't they fight
Goliath?")

David notices Saul's sarcasm. He ignores it.

DAVID

I am also eager, your majesty.

Saul looks up from the map.

DAVID

I would like to fight the giant.

SAUL

(to the Commander) Leave us, I would like to be alone with David.

The Commander walks out, the Man in White stands by Davids side unnoticed.

SAUL

What is this again?

DAVID

I would like to fight the giant, Goliath.

SAUL

Are you or are you not merely a boy?

DAVID

Yes. Yet I am well equipped, your majesty.

SAUL

With what David? You have no armor, no experience in battle.

DAVID

I need no armor, but experience I have. I have protected my fathers flocks since I was old enough to walk, your majesty. I have removed sheep directly from the jaws of lions and killed bears with the very sling that hangs on my shoulder now.

EXT. OPEN FIELD. DAY

David is walking out of a headrow of tree lining an open field, his sling is loosely draped over his shoulder. A small knife is in a sheath on his side. His shepherds clothes are speratically spotted with blood. He carries a bears head in his left hand.

A young sheep whose wool is stained with blood follows David out of the woods and into the field.

BEARS HEAD

David speaks to himself giving praise and honor to God. He seems shaken, almost shocked by the previous battle with the bear.

DAVID Praise God. Praise God.

CUT TO:

INT. KINGS BATTLEFIELD TENT. DAY - (CONTINUOUS)

Saul pauses. Intrigued.

SAUL

Your courage is commendable, yet I can not send you to die David.

DAVID

What other options do you have? No one is willing to fight the giant except me, your majesty. (louder) I will fight Goliath for all of Israel, and I will win.

Saul pauses again. He realizes that David is right, he has no other options. He briefly questions himself within his own mind, if the choice being made is the right one.

BEAT.

He is ready.

SAUL

Your mind is made and I trust in that.

(he nods) You may fight the giant. Yet I tell you this, I wash my hands of your blood. This was your request not mine.

Saul walks to a corner of the tent and picks up a suit of armor and a sword still in the sheath, holding them out to David.

SAUL

You may use these.

DAVID

I am honored to be offered the kings armor. But I must decline for I am not use to the fit of such clothing, it would only way me down. Thank you.

Saul, almost insulted yet understanding, puts back the honorable offer.

SAUL

How, might I ask, do you plan on defeating the giant?

DAVID

With my sling and my God, your majesty, what else.

David turns to leave and stops.

DAVID

Your majesty, is it true what the men are saying? Any man that defeats Goliath, he and his family will be exempt from ever having to pay taxes again?

SAUL

This is true.

DAVID

Does that include my father and seven brothers?

SAUL

If you defeat Goliath, my dear boy, your father and brothers will never have to pay for anything ever again. That is my word.

DAVID

(genuinely) Thank you.

David and the Man in White walk out. We stay with Saul as he sits in a chair and sighs deeply to himself. He truly believes David will die.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ISRAELITE FRONTLINES. DAY

Davids three brothers, Eliab, whom we've met, ABINADAB and SHAMMAH, are sitting around a fire eating from the sack that David had brought them.

Behind them we see other Israelite soldiers sitting around scattered fires conversating with one another. Others are walking by, others are practicing swinging their swords, etc. Wasting time.

Eliab is the most respected of the brothers and this is obvious. We are not sure if he is the oldest, because of the closeness in age, but is by far the most responsible, and it shows.

We come in mid-conversation.

ELIAB

Who knows what that boy thinks of, he is confused half the time.

ABINADAB

He wants to fight Goliath, I'm sure of it.

ELIAB

Of course he does, a young mind is full of dreams.

He swallows the bread he is devouring.

ELIAB

He should be home with father. There's sheep that need tending.

SHAMMAH

If it were not for David, we would still be hungry, no?

ABINADAB

(Acknowledging Shammah) Eliab, he is right. David is smart for his age, smarter then we were. If he wants to battle the giant, so be it. Besides, God is with him.

Eliab seems taken back, quieter.

BEAT.

ELTAB

I worry for my brother, that is all.

SHAMMAH

He is not only your brother to worry for.

We stay with them as they continue eating.

The CRACKLING OF THE FIRE, is now heard through the silence.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREAM BANK. DAY

David kneels next to a small river bed that is no larger wide then he is tall. The Man in White stands only feet behind him, watching.

He removes his sling and rubs his face with handfuls of water.

He sits on his knees, bows his head and closes his eyes.

We stay with him as it becomes evident he is praying.

MAN IN WHITE'S FACE

We can see he is proud, very pleased.

David eventually opens his eyes and notices two gray, smooth rocks lying on the creek bed floor. The rocks seem as if they were laid there for him and him alone.

He reaches down into the water and picks them up, placing them in his pocket. He grabs his sling and walks out of view.

We stay with the creek as David and his all white companion leave us.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ISRAELITE FRONT LINES. DAY

DAVIDS FACE

We hear the same majestic tenor. The melody is haunting and triumphant.

Davids face is stone cold. Determined; confident.

PULL AWAY

David is walking among the Israelite soldiers towards the front lines.

PULL AWAY

The Man in White follows David. As they walk a random soldier follows, then another, and another, until David has many soldiers following him to the front line.

David and his "clan" of soldiers stop at the front line.

The singing voice ends abruptly.

EXT. VALLEY. DAY - (CONTINUOUS)

Goliath stands between the two armies alone screaming the challenge again as if for the first time.

GOLIATH

Again, I ask, is there not one? If there is one worthy to die by my sword then let him step forth!

EXT. ISRAELITE FRONT LINES. DAY - (CONTINUOUS)

David hesitates..slightly. Its now or not at all.

DAVIDS FOOT

SLOW MOTION

Davids steps forth.

Then another step and another.

The Man in White follows.

He walks out about ten paces, until we see that David is well in front of the Israelite army.

END SLOW MOTION

AERIAL VIEW

We can see both David and Goliath now in the valley well separated from each ones respectful army. They stand approximately two hundred feet from one another.

Goliath turns to the Philistine army and begins to bolster out a laugh that is deeper then any other. The Philistine army follows in tune.

Goliath stabs his sword into the ground.

GOLIATH

You come at me with sticks and stones? Your God is foolish, for how can a boy do what a man can not?

David shouts back.

DAVID

Today is the day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and all the earth will know there is a God.

There is a brief moment of bitter silence. Neither man moving or speaking.

DAVIDS FACE

His eyes are ready.

GOLIATHS FACE

His glare is confident, proud. He also is ready.

David gives out a piercing yell. And without notice or preparation, he begins running full tilt at the giant, sling in hand.

CUT TO BLACK:

ON BLACK:

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

-PHILIPIANS 4:13

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY. DAY - (CONTINUOUS)

David is in a full sprint. The only thing we hear his AUDIBLE BREATHING.

As we move with David, the hills and sky behind him rapidly stream by.

DAVID'S POV

We see Goliath standing firm in a battle ready stance, sword in hand.

As he's running, David reaches into his pocket and removes one of the stones from the creek bed.

AUDIBLE BREATHING.

He places it in the sling.

DAVIDS POV

Goliath is getting closer.

We see David in full sprint, pull back on the sling with intense velocity....aims..... releases.

SLOW MOTION

He falls, face hitting the ground, kicking up dirt.

We stay with David. Moments later, he raises his head to see.....Goliath has face down. Motionless.

David rises to his feet.

Looks back at the Israelite soldiers watching.

END SLOW MOTION.

They begin yelling, screaming in triumph.

We see Eliab, over-joyed, hug his brothers.

David, realizes the victory is not his yet, quickly walks over to the giant. He picks up Goliaths sword and drives it deep between the giants shoulder blades.

He then removes the sword from the giants back, walks up to Goliaths head, grabs it by the hair and places the sword under the giants neck. We can see where Davids stone is lodged in Goliaths forehead.

At the front lines, we see Abinadab, Shammah and Eliab standing in awe of their brothers bravery.

David then holds up Goliaths head in his hand and screams in victory.

After a brief moment, the Israelite army screams as well.

David turns to the Philistine army, we can still hear the ISRAELITE ARMY SCREAMING, and throws Goliaths head as far as he can towards the Philistine army.

We can see, one by one, then a couple, then several soldiers start dropping their weapons and retreating.

SLOW MOTION

AERIAL VIEW

We see David and the Israelite army running after the Philistines with weapons drawn, following their new leader David.

FADE TO BLACK.