

“So David asked the Lord, “Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The Lord replied to David, “Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you.” 2 Samuel 5:19 NLT

## lectio // 2 Samuel 5:17-25

I don't know if this is a thing or even noteworthy, but David went to God directly - no high priest mediator. As far as I remember, Saul inquired through Samuel and was in trouble for not waiting for the high priest on a number of the occasions. David went direct. Here in these passages, the Philistines had already heard that David was proclaimed to be the new king and would take immediate advantage of the transition of power. I believe this is common for enemies to attack or cause trouble still to this day. Transitions of power are always risky. It was naive of the the Philistines not to remember that David was a formidable warrior. David ran to a stronghold city, but only long enough to inquire of what God wanted. Also an interesting note Samuel included in the narrative, he said “The Philistines had abandoned their idols there, so David and his men confiscated them.” These guys traveled with their gods to “guarantee” success? This must have been humorous to THE God, to see them bring their little dead idol toys thinking that would help them. There were two mini wars in this story and both times God said YES to taking them on - one direct, the other encircled behind them. David had enormous faith and no problem going into battle - he lived for that, at least at this stage of his life. Later, it was recorded that his own men encouraged him to stay home and later he decided to stay back and enjoy the leisurely life of taking someone else's wife, then a life. He brought the war into his own heart and miserably lost.

## oratio

Dad,

So many lessons here. Lessons of faith and a warrior's heart.

David had already seen so many overwhelming odds against him. He was hunted, attacked and on the run for a huge part of his life. That was exhausting for him. Those were his lowest moments while on the run. However, in battle, he was right at home, comfortable to be bold and ask, and hear your voice!

Confident in your answer, he went out boldly. I'm so envious of that boldness and trust in you during that time of his life.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root