

## Giant Challenges

I'm not great with heights. I make myself go to high places when it's required or if it looks like it *should* be fun, such as rock climbing, which I love, but I'm still not great with heights. After I've been up there for a while, things start to settle down. For example, it wasn't until the third go around Manchester's Big Wheel that I started to relax and let go of my daughters so that they could enjoy the ride!

Marple Aqueduct is that kind of place. I'm OK crossing it, as I do on my bike, but I wouldn't like to lean over too far... I'm told by a friend that one of her father's favourite games as a child was to jump the canal. This meant taking a run up on the path side and jumping the canal to the non-path side, which had no wall or railings! A miss-timed jump would have resulted in a 90ft fall - thankfully, it never did!

In our Christ Church Bible readings, we're currently working through part of the life of David - the shepherd who became king - and he fascinates me. He is not only one of the best examples of a leader but also a man who regularly challenges God's faithfulness when it all goes horribly wrong.

David's ruckus with Goliath really sums him up. Faced with the impossible, he strolls right on in, his confidence in God as his strength and shield. Not even a flicker of doubt. Incredible! You might think that David's faith made him reckless, like intentionally heading out to Marple Aqueduct and jumping over.

I imagine that if you set out to try the jump, every warning sign on the bridge would stand out even more than usual, telling you not to do it. David's path into extraordinary faith begins with many people telling him not to jump, but he ignores them because his jump begins in blessing and anointing. David is the king chosen by God and the man to lead his people. His jump is in faith, not folly.

None of us is going bridge jumping and or going to be anointed as God's chosen king, but we all have places of comfort and places of uncertainty. I fear that if we all stay comfortable, the Goliaths of this world - be they poverty, injustice, addiction or bullying (and you'll know of more) will stand taunting the people of God.

We need to learn the difference between faith and recklessness: one leads to blessing, the other to dabbling with crisis. However, the giants must be faced and it may be we who need to do it.

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