

“This Doesn’t Feel Right”

(Based on Indigenous Day of Prayer, Father’s Day and I Samuel 17:32-49)

I wasn’t sure what he meant. This doesn’t feel right. You said size 11 didn’t you. Yes the box said it was a size 11 and yet as Daniel walked around the store trying out the new shoes they were rubbing in the wrong places and he said they don’t feel right. Off he slip the shoes and when I looked inside at the shoe they were size 10’s. Daniel knew something the box didn’t reveal -- wearing them revealed the true problem they didn’t fit!

“Mumilaaq (Moo/mil/lac) Qaqqaq (Ka/ka) would give herself pep talks in the elevators at work. After the doors to the parliamentary elevators closed and she could be away from her fellow MPs, she said she’d often repeat three words to herself: I belong here. I belong here.

There were times when others tried to tell her she didn’t belong. She would be stopped in the hallways by security. People asked if she was someone’s assistant. Ms. Qaqqaq acknowledges she’s never really felt comfortable in the House of Commons.

“It’s a very uneasy place,” she said. “It’s a place where they make laws that result in Indigenous death and result in turmoil for a lot of our communities. I feel that.”

On Tuesday, Ms. Qaqqaq gave a [farewell speech](#) in Parliament where she spoke directly about how alienating her experience in the House has been. She spoke about how she didn’t feel safe there, and that she had to go into “survival mode” at work. [“I didn’t hold back,”](#) she wrote about the speech on Twitter. Despite working to convince herself that she belonged, she said it was clear that Parliament was not a place for her.

“I walked into a building on fire,” she said in an interview with The Globe and Mail. “I ran into it with a big smile on my face, and I really had no clue what I was in for.”

Ms. Qaqqaq announced in May that she would not be seeking re-election. At 27, she’s one of the younger members of Parliament, representing all of Nunavut. She said her identity as an Indigenous woman made being in the House of Commons more difficult for her.

“The systems are built to work for certain people. It’s middle-aged white men,” she said. “It’s a weird thing to realize your lack of privileges, even though you’re in a position so full of privileges.” Mumilaaq Qaqqaq knew something didn’t feel right for her.

Globe and Mail article [Menaka Raman-Wilms](#)

Something didn’t feel right for David. His dad had sent him to resupply his brothers who were with King Saul’s army fighting the Philistines. But when David arrived he didn’t see fighting as he expected. He witnessed the taunting of a giant of a man named Goliath, and he was calling for a champion of Israel to come out and meet him. David was trying to understand what was going on. His brothers told him to mind his own business. But David was confused why no one would challenge Goliath? God was on their side right. So all someone had to do was go out and face the challenger. David’s boldness was refreshing and maybe a little too much. Yet King Saul received David in his tent and he chatted with this young man. David was willing to go and face Goliath. David was willing to face the giant standing before him.

Makes one wonder what are the giants before us that are calling out? They have many names – Covid 19, racial injustice, poverty, homelessness, addiction, parenting, unemployment, self-doubt, fear. They seem to taunt us. They say you can't overcome us. It doesn't seem right that they should win, that they should dictate our lives. But they are so big!

David somehow convinces Saul that he could and would face the giant waiting for them. Saul looked at the young man, his courage and bravery and thinks I have to help him somehow. So Saul gives David his armour to wear. I am sure it was the best money could buy. It would be strong and shiny and battle tested. Saul gives his armour to David. As David straps it on, he knows this doesn't feel right. The armour is too heavy, too big, not made for him. David eventually turns aside the armour gift.

On this Father's day I am sure a few of you are thinking about your dad and the gifts he gave you. I was watching the GUM services posted yesterday and Rev. John reminisced about his dad as a teacher and how he always wore a tie to work. John wore one in his honour. My dad was a forestry professor. He shared his passion for the outdoors with teaching

us how to identify trees by the bark, the leaves and little tells like the smell of crushed leaves. He showed us how to count the tree rings and pointed out when a fire likely passed through. He showed us how to tap maple trees and how to extract honey. My dad showed us his world. I remember in later life he said reflectively – how he hoped maybe one of us would have taken up forestry. My brother came the closest. But for us that didn't feel quite right. That was one gift that didn't quite fit. Yet my dad and mom were both teachers and all of us have been teachers. That part of the gift fit. I also know that because of my dad's keen interest in trees and nature, I know more than I realized. When I go for a walk, I often find myself noticing the trees and their changing ways. I chose to wear the other gifts he offered.

David did the same. The king offered him armour. David chose to put on the God that the King served. David felt that God would be with him in the battle and in the face of his challenge. David chose to put on the gifts he had learned looking after the sheep for his father. Smooth stones for his slingshot, recalling victories over bears and lions,

remembering the courage he mustered in the past in the face of danger. David was a boy according to the King, but he was a boy who trusted that God would provide.

This was what felt right for David. Putting on God's care and protection. Putting on God's history with him. Wearing the items he knew who guide him through what was ahead. "Your rod and your staff they comfort me" we hear from a future psalm he writes. Trusting in God felt right for David.

Perhaps that is why this passage is one of my favourites. I have found like David that facing the giant trusting God is usually the best way to go. In the act of courage it takes to face the giant, you discover God meeting you in new ways. For David it was a physical victory over Goliath. For others of us was coming through cancer treatments. For others of us learning that love is still found in death. For others of us we have trusted our riches to be used by God and they have brought much reward -- lives changed, foreigners become friends, projects become reality. Trusting God can feel right.

I think that's why this story is in the bible. It is less about killing Goliath and more about trusting God with our future, our fears, our challenges. It was safe to hide behind the fighting line. It may have made better sense to wear some of the King's armour. It may have been wiser for King Saul to send out a more experienced warrior. But what is lifted up is a boy's faith to trust God to see him through the racism, the growing pains, the Covid-19 times with the tools he knew and the ones he found worked for him. David didn't expect he would need only one stone. He took five. Sometimes we may have to try again.

A boy faced a giant with the tools he had. It might serve us well to notice the ones we have. The best one was God's provision for him and the people. God's provision is something that feels right to share with you today.