

RETOLD hearing again the bold and true stories TESTAMENT of the first testament

Numbers 13-14 : The Faith and Vision of Joshua and Caleb

The decision to choose between “We can’t” or “We can because God is with us” can set the course of an entire life, an entire generation, an entire nation.

Numbers 13 (page 99)

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites...

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

The Promised Land was their destination and their destiny. God was leading them and they needed only to move forward with Him.

What we perceive...

²⁷ They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there...

³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

“Faith is to believe what we do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.”
Saint Augustine

and what we believe...

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

³³ ...We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

“The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but has no vision.”
Helen Keller

...will determine what we achieve.

Numbers 14

⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh...tore their clothes⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD...”

¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

²⁴ But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it...

³⁰ Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

We Christians start with doing things some don't think are sensible, and pretty soon we're doing things most don't consider possible. We must be people of vision and faith.

“I know this now. Every man gives his life for what he believes. Every woman gives her life for what she believes. Sometimes people believe in little or nothing, and yet they give their lives to that little or nothing. One life is all we have and we live it as we believe in living it and then it's gone. But to surrender what you are and to live without belief is more terrible than dying—even more terrible than dying young.”

Joan of Arc (1412-1431)

The Cost of Disobedience

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

What fear do you find yourself facing fairly regularly?

What challenging situation have you successfully faced that at first scared you?

What principle, insight, or quote from the sermon was most meaningful to you?

READ

Deuteronomy 1-2:7; Deuteronomy 4:1-10

God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them through a hostile wilderness with many miraculous demonstrations of His power and purpose. Yet on the brink of entering the fruitful land promised by God, fear and disobedience sent them back to the desert. For a full account, read Numbers 13-14.

What is the occasion for the speech Moses gave the Israelites? Where are they, where have they been, and for how long? (1:1-4)

Why is it important for us to know that it takes 11 days to go from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea? How long did that journey ultimately take the Israelites? (1:2-3)

Why did the Israelites want spies to check the land God had given them? How did they react when the spies reported back? How did they accuse God? (1:19-32)

How did God feel about this? What consequences did the Israelites face because of their disobedience? (1:34-40)

How could the Israelites *not* trust God after all they had seen Him do on their behalf? Why would they prefer to go back to slavery in Egypt?

How can we be sure we are following God's leading rather than our own motives and logic?

What message is God giving through Moses' review of their history? (4:1-10)

What have you learned from looking back at your journey with God?

Share a time you relied on God's promise and did what He asked rather than what seemed safe, wise, or logical. What did you learn from that experience?

REFLECT

*Trust God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go;
he's the one who will keep you on track.*
Proverbs 3:5-7 (MSG)

RESPOND

Share with your group, or a friend, what God is saying to you through this study. What do you plan to do about it? When? Pray together about these things.

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