Climbing Mountains, Slaying Giants!

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday May 24th, 2020

Text: Joshua 14:12

### Intro

1. As Christians, we are told to be different, to stand out from the crowd, to be lights!
   1. God expects us to be conformed to His Son and not the world. *(Rom. 8:28-30)*
      1. *Mt. 5:14-16; Rom. 12:2; II Cor. 6:17;I Pet. 1:14-16:* “Be holy as God is holy!”
2. Do you remember these names?
   1. Shammua
   2. Shaphat
   3. Igal
   4. Palti
   5. Gaddiel
   6. Gaddi
   7. Ammiel
   8. Sethur
   9. Nahbi
   10. Geuel
3. What about if we add in the names Joshua and Caleb?
4. A great example of standing out from the crowd and being “different” is seen in the account of the Twelve Spies – Num. 13-14 *(I Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4: O.T. accounts for our instruction)*
   1. Ten spies gave a bad report and swayed a nation to commit sin *(remember their names?)*
   2. Two spies, Joshua and Caleb, gave a good report and were ready to take the land!
5. Caleb:
   1. He was from the Tribe of Judah *(Num. 13:6)*
      1. Chosen by Judah to be a spy into Canaan.
      2. Brought back a faithful report – Num. 13:30: “We will overcome!”
   2. Survived the wilderness
      1. Only he and one another (Joshua) survived. *(Num. 14:30, 38)*
      2. Never forgot what he had seen as a spy.
   3. Took action in the conquest
      1. He is 85 years old before he gets his inheritance.
      2. Years have meant nothing – Josh. 14:6-11
      3. He is ready for the hardest task: The mountain with the giants! – Josh. 14:12: “Give me this mountain” (NKJ)
6. Dare to be like Caleb! (Caleb put his faith into action when he asked for the mountain to take on the giants)

#### Caleb Had a “Different Spirit”

* 1. Num. 14:24:
     1. “But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.”
        1. His actions were approved by God: “My servant.”
  2. Note the contrast of spirits:
     1. **Caleb**: Was positive and was willing to act on his faith (Num. 13:27-30)
        1. **The Ten**: Were negative and acted on fear and unbelief (Num. 13:32-33)
     2. **Caleb**: Saw all that they saw and said, “We are able” (Num. 13:30)
        1. **The Ten**: Gripped by doubt and fear, “We are not able” (Num. 13:31)
     3. **Caleb**: Active and zealous. Willing to work to gain the victory (Num. 14:6-9)
        1. **The Ten**: Wanted the reward without the labor, victory without the war (Num. 14:2-4)
  3. Dare to be like Caleb and trust in God, having a “Can Do” attitude!

#### Taking On the Giants

* 1. Josh. 14:12
     1. Caleb asked for the “hill country” (NKJ: “mountain”) where the Anakim (giants) dwelt.
        1. Hebron was 3,040 ft above sea level, the highest town in Palestine.
        2. Formerly Kiriath-arba, (Arba, greatest of the Anakim) – Josh. 14:15
        3. Hebron named after Arba’s son Anak (giants) – Josh. 15:13
        4. Hebron rich in Biblical history back to days of Abraham *(Gen. 13-23).*
        5. Joshua killed Hebron king during conquest – *Josh. 10:3-27*
        6. Became a City of Refuge – *Josh. 20:7; 21:13-16*
  2. Said of David, “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands” *(I Sam. 18:7).*
     1. ***But David only slew a few giants!*** – *II Sam. 17; 21:16-22: Goliath by David, and Goliath’s 4 sons felled by David and his men!*
     2. Caleb of Tribe of Judah; David of tribe of Judah: Judah produced Giant-Slayers!
  3. Caleb took on the ***fortified cities*** of the giants!
     1. Joshua 14:6-12: Caleb’s faith brought him this far and now he was ready to take the mountain and take on the giants!
     2. He had waited 45 years to go mountain climbing to take on the giants (Joshua 14:10) that made others feel like “grasshoppers” (Num. 13:33).
     3. He wanted the hills that nestled fortified cities in which the giants lived so that he could drive them out with the help of the Lord.
     4. So what if they were giants? They were on his land, and he would drive them out by the strength of God! (Joshua 14:12)
     5. He still saw things through the eyes of faith and not as they appeared outwardly – lesson for us! *(II Cor. 5:7: “We walk by faith, not by sight”)*
     6. He was eighty-five years old and he could have said, “I am ready to retire – give me an easy place”
     7. But Caleb chose the difficult task – He climbed a mountain and killed giants (Joshua 15:13-14), the very thing that was the stumbling block of the ten that drove the multitude to sin against God! *(Numbers 13-14)*
  4. Dare to be like Caleb and have faith and trust in God to take on your giants and defeat them!

#### Caleb’s Reward: The Mountain Promised By God

* 1. Reward not apparent at first! – *He had a Carrying Faith!*
     1. Stood with the minority (He and Joshua stood against majority) – *Num. 13-14*
     2. The multitude was ready to stone him and Joshua – Num. 14:10
     3. He had to wander in the wilderness with the guilty *(Num. 14:28-35).*
     4. He saw the land and had carried back evidences of God’s goodness, and waited to enter the land and possess it!
  2. Had approval of God and his own conscience (Was favored by God!)
     1. Num. 14:24; Josh. 14:12-14: “My servant Caleb;” “he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.”
  3. The difference in him and the others during the forty years:
     1. The people: They wandered waiting to die
        1. Today: II Thess. 1:7-9: Those disobedient to God wander life to their “deaths.”
     2. Caleb: He wandered to enter the Promised Land and live
        1. Today: Rom. 8:18: We wander with the guilty awaiting life! (I Pet. 1:3-4)
     3. Caleb: His faithfulness was never forgotten – Joshua remembered and the Holy Spirit recorded it for all time and eternity! *Caleb had Climbing Faith!*
        1. Today: God remembers and records the names of the faithful into the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 20:11-15; 21:25-27)
  4. He gained the victory! – *Caleb had Conquering Faith!*
     1. Josh. 14:12, 15; 15:14: Drives out the sons of Anak.
     2. Josh. 14:14; 15:13: Takes Hebron and its lands (“The hill country, mountain”)
     3. Josh. 21:11-12: Settles down to his reward, sharing with the Levites (21:8-10).
  5. Dare to be like Caleb in overcoming adversity, be faithful to the end, and be rewarded!

## Conclusion

1. We see in Caleb the spirit we are to possess!
   1. Overcome the trials of life! (Js. 1:2-4; Rev. 21:7)
      1. The reward may not be apparent – Caleb had to suffer with the wicked for 40 years! (Num. 14:28-35)
   2. Be faithful to the end! (II Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10) – Don’t give up!
      1. Caleb never gave up and never lost faith in God! (Josh. 14:12-14)
   3. Receive the reward from God! (Js. 1:12; Rev. 2:10; cf. Mt. 25:34, 46)
      1. Caleb overcame and enjoyed the rewards of his God! (Josh. 14:14; 15:13)
2. Dare to be like Caleb in realizing God is bigger than any “giants” we face!
   1. We live in a world that is oft scary at times, opposed to God, and is alluring with all manner of temptations, all to draw away our faith from God!
   2. Fears, worry, anxiety, and panic are traits of the world – Give yours to God – I Peter 5:7
   3. We all have giants in our lives, and they can look different for each of us—fear, self-doubt, loneliness, temptation, jealousy…God can handle them all and give us peace!
   4. We need the faith of Caleb to not let anything take us away from the reward God has promised! *(No matter how long that may take!)*
3. What spirit do you possess? *(Caleb possessed a “different spirit”)*
   1. You must possess another spirit than the world *(Rom. 12:1-2; I Pet. 1:14-16)*
4. Dare to be like Caleb and stand out from the crowd! Will you overcome & be faithful till death?
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Let your requests be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!