

# Caleb

## (Numbers 13-14; Joshua 14)

### INTRODUCTION:

#### A. There is a reason why we have the Old Testament (Romans 15:4)

1. It is for our instruction, the Old Testament give us courage through the Scriptures on what we have believe according to the word of God.

#### B. Even though Caleb is not on the list of faith in Hebrews 11...

1. Nevertheless, we have his example for us to emulate. There are many other examples given to us as the Hebrew writer said, "And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets" - (Hebrews 11:32)

#### C. The purpose of this sermon:

1. Caleb, his example:
  - a. Faithfulness as a spy
  - b. His only petition for God
  - c. His recompense
2. Once again, Caleb is an example; it is shot of motivation, encouragement that we need today and that even though it happened thousands of years ago it is still applicable today in 2010. Caleb is the example for us to strive to desire to fight for the promise land, heaven.

### I. CALEB'S FAITHFULNESS AS A SPY

#### A. The courage for standing firm against the opposition

1. Caleb stood firm even though...
  - a. He and Joshua were the minority (Numbers 13:30-31; 14:6) there were ten who were the opposition against two who stood firm in their faith.
  - b. Caleb stood firm even though he was close to face death for what he believe to be right! (Numbers 14:10).
2. Today, we sometimes can be with the minority as well in the time of persecution.
  - a. Our so call "friends" or co-workers make fun of us of our morality, purity, of our live as a Christian before God.
  - b. Even among religious people, we would be the minority with respect with:
    - 1) Institutionalism
    - 2) Marriage, divorce and re-marriage
    - 3) Modesty

#### B. To have the confidence in God even when circumstances may seen insuperable

1. Notice the confidence of Caleb:
  - a. "If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land..." (Numbers 14:7-9).
  - b. "But my servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit..." (Numbers 14:24).
    - 1) All the other spies saw the same things, the same evidence (Numbers 13:25-29).
    - 2) Thus the ten spies attitude were different than Caleb and Joshua
      - (a) For the ten it was fear (Numbers 13:31-33).
      - (b) For Caleb it was confidence and faith in God (Numbers 13:30; 14:8-9).

- 3) This spirit has to do with an independent way of thinking from circumstances.
2. Us today...
  - a. For many the way we think, feel and act depend upon circumstances
    - 1) Do we only follow God when everything in my life is going well? When everything is perfect with my life? What about when circumstances arise which are not favorable?
    - 2) To the extent that we even as Christian may think, "We are never going to convert anyone, the people are too worldly, too sinful"
    - 3) "Our local church is never going to grow if we do not offer entertainment, a chorus, instrumental music, a kitchen, or a building that is big and attractive," etc.
    - 4) "**If we teach in the church about...**
      - (a) **Institutionalism**, we are going to lose fellowship with many good "brethren" (to say "fellowship" we mean friendship, opportunity to have meals with them, etc.)
      - (b) **disciplining** the members, we are never going to grow, nobody will want to become a member of this congregation"
      - (c) **marriage, divorce and re-marriage** we are going to lose many members, after all we have to conformed to our society today, divorce is very common"
      - (d) **modesty**, we are going to lose all of our young people, after all they are the future of the church"
  - b. Regardless of the circumstances that we may face, the word of God in its purity on every subject must be taught (**Acts 20:27**). We need to learn individually and the church of Christ to have confidence, to have trust in God and not to give in to fear regardless of the circumstances we may face (see the life of **Job**). After all, we must sow the seed and we must water the seed but God give its growth (**1 Cor. 3:6**).

### C. Caleb was willing to wait, he was patient

1. Caleb (**Numbers 14:24, 30, 36-38**).
2. Today, we need to learn to wait to be patient
  - a. In the event of Caleb give us another example of how God tested His people with a delay.
  - b. See **2 Peter 3:9**
  - c. The author of Hebrews teaches us this very point of this sermon about the entrance to the promise land in chapters 3 and 4. Notice what it says in (**Hebrews 4:11**) and in (**Hebrews 3:14**).

## II. CALEB'S PETITION TO GOD

### A. Caleb's petition (Joshua 14:6-13)

1. More than forty years ago, God promised Caleb this land as a reward because of his faithfulness to God. Now about 85 years old, Caleb still has to fight for it in order to take the land. Notice that God did not give the land to Caleb that easy, into his hands.
2. Caleb asked for the hill country, Hebron become an inherence to Caleb. This land it was difficult to overthrown because it was fortified (**Joshua 14:12**), therefore it was difficult to drive out the enemies.

### B. The application for us today...

1. The true Christian does not seek "retirement" from God or being a Christian
2. Brother or sister, are you satisfied with your present spiritual maturity?
  - a. Are we satisfied with:
    - 1) Baptism
    - 2) To be faithful in our worship assistance while others were indifferent and or absent?

- 3) Being the only one or one of the few that it can be counted on for cleaning the building, setting up the Lord's supper, being the treasurer, etc.
- 4) Of always being ready and being able to teach or preach at a moment's call.
- 5) Missing some worship services, "but at least I am being sincere and honest about your worship and studying the Bible at home while not with the saints worshipping God", some will say.
- b. The greatest obstacle that will interfere with our spiritual growth is complacency, personal satisfaction!
- c. Not only will impede growth and only cause us not to proceed but to retrocede. We cannot stay stagnant in one place either we proceed to our heavenly goal or we go back to the world.
- d. Some of ones are afraid asking God for more opportunities to grow spiritually, or to evangelize or to do more in the kingdom of God, maybe because God will answer and say, "Yes"
3. To proceed
  - a. Just like Paul with the **Philippians 3:12-16**
  - b. Just like Caleb, we have to ask God for challenges, to ask Him for the difficulties so that we can GROW! Things some of us have done like:
    - 1) To preach the first sermon
    - 2) To invite our neighbor to come to service, friend or co-worker
    - 3) Teach a Bible class, teach the lost, teach someone who may be interested
    - 4) Perhaps in the near future to serve as a deacon, or elder
    - 5) To take place of the teacher, the one leading hymns in order to learn.
4. Let us remember that heaven is a place of servitude
  - a. Notice the following, when Caleb reached the promise land, his work just began!
  - b. Some have the idea that when heaven is reached people will be floating on a cloud resting and drinking their favorite beverage.
  - c. We are not certain of all the projects God will have for those who will be in heaven
    - 1) But we know that this includes a type of rest (**Hebrew 3:12-4:11; Rev. 14:13**). Rest from our faith against temptation, sin and affliction, ironically there are some who do not long for that type of rest from those things mentioned previously because they are not fighting them!
    - 2) Heaven also includes service to God!
      - (a) See **Revelation 7:15**
      - (b) **Revelation 22:1-3**
      - (c) Notice especially in **Rev. 22:1-3**, the figure of the garden of Eden, the figure has to be with Genesis 2 and the garden of Eden.
      - (d) In the garden of Eden in Genesis God placed man to keep it and cultivate it (**Genesis 2:15**), which means that going to heaven should include work as we have seen in the previous passages.
      - (e) Only those who are accustomed to be servants of God will be the ones who will be serving Him for eternity. Imagine a person who just wears the name "Christian" but he is not one by heart and soul and then he is seen in heaven where perhaps God has plan an eternal worship service for Him. Do you think this person will be happy? Do not worry about this type of person according to the text he/she will not be able to enter into heaven.

### III. CALEB'S RECOMPANSE

#### A. Caleb enter into the promised land (Joshua 14:13-14)

**B. Just like Caleb, we too should desire a country of our own, a celestial city which God has prepared (Hebrews 11:16)**

1. Just like Caleb we too need to have a good mental recollection
  - a. Caleb said, "The land...is an exceedingly good...a land which flows with milk and honey" (**Numbers 14:7-8**).
  - b. We remembered good child hood memories and try to remember all the small details we can think of...so we should about heaven. We have the Scriptures that give us a small glimpse of the great place we can call home.
  - c. Therefore we must stay focus on the invisible things (**2 Cor. 4:18; 3:1-3**).
  - d. Meditating upon heaven when what await us and to remember those man of faith (**Hebrews 12:1-2**).

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. All of us need faith like Caleb**

1. To be firm in the minority
2. Even though we may face challenges and difficulty times, we know for certain that we can rely on God.
3. But also we must be willing to wait, to be patient

**B. Must also look and ask God for challenges and difficulty times so that we can grow!**

**C. Finally, then we will be ready to enjoy our reward one day!**

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