

HEROES JOSHUA AND CALEB

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INTRODUCTION

We are very happy to see you here, to meet together with you and we just hope this will be a blessed lecture for you. When I look at you I can just see some of you kind of sitting there thinking, "Oh, there is so much to do and there are difficulties," and you are just wagging your head. That's why we want you here today so that you can find out that your head can shake in the **"yes"** direction also! Instead of shaking it in the "no" direction we want you to learn to shake it in the **"yes"** direction this today. Ha-ha-ha! We hope you will go home encouraged and with some new practical help. On occasion all of us need to get the sleep out of our eyes after facing the struggles of life. Believe me, it will get better and better. But we need to have this day together like an Easter Sunrise service.

1. GOD WANTS TO SUPPLY ABUNDANT RICHES

The Lord has been speaking to me about a special passage in the book of Numbers. I want to share with you today chapters 13 and 14 of the book of Numbers. I think there are a lot of examples that are particularly helpful for us at this very time.

Beginning with verse 26 of chapter 13 we read that the spies who had been exploring the land of Israel for Moses came back with their report. They came back to Aaron and Moses and the whole community and they reported to them what they had seen and showed the fruit of the land. This is what they told Moses: *"We went into the land to which you sent us and it does flow with milk and honey and here is its fruit."* So, they said: «Yes, it is exactly like you told us.» God does want to supply us abundantly.



2. THE OBSTACLES ARE INTIMIDATING

Yes, it is a good land but! There is the BIG but in Verse 28. It says, “but the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large.” This is maybe how you feel. Yes, these are good discipleship courses. Yes, there are many hungry students. Yes, we need this in our country. We need it in our province; the people of our region need it. But there are many obstacles! “*But the people who live there are powerful and the cities are fortified and very large.*” Yes, we should do these things but there are many problems. There were the Amalekites, there were Hittites and Jebusites and Canaanites. Wow! There was a multitude of difficulties out there. I mean, do you have difficulties or do you have difficulties? There are still old communists left over. The economic system is totally not working. Transportation is a

mess. There are Khazaks and there are Azerbaijanies and there are Georgians and Muslims who object to what you want to do. And, oh, there is a host of these obstacles out there. There are many more problems than what you can think of. One brother went to the Far East four times. Three times he was robbed. He was a huge guy, that brother. If it were me, I probably would have been robbed six times. Then someone says, “Stop! Quit your whining. **Let’s get on with it!**”

3. WE CAN DO IT

Caleb had the following to say; he silenced all the people before Moses. He says, “Shut up!” He says “We should go and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” Ten people cannot do it. He says, “we can do it.” This is the advice we have from Caleb. Caleb was God’s man. He spoke for God. He saw the possibility. He saw that God always has success. He believed that with God’s help there were no obstacles big enough. If God is pleased with us He will lead us in and we will be successful. Deep down inside, are you one of the ten, or do you want to join these two heroes? Your decision is important. God is pleased with our faith. He wants to lead us in. He has blessings and success waiting for us.

4. THE BAD NEWS

Then again we come to that word “but”. But the men who had gone with him said: “We cannot attack those people!” Attack! Why can’t you attack somebody? You can always try; you can always beat him, kick him or do something. Maybe, you can’t win the battle, but you can attack him. They said: “They are stronger than we are.” Stronger how? Where they taller? That only means they had a weaker spine. That only means they could fall down much harder. They spread among the Israelites a bad report. They spread a bad report about the land that they had explored. They’ve just said it was a good land. Now they say, “*The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.*”

Now, there’s a real contradiction here. The land was eating the people, and yet the people they saw there were twice as big as anybody else. How can the land be eating people and the people get bigger? How can the land be eating people and at the same time they report the land is full of Amalekites, Hittites, and Canaanites? How can that be? How can you have lots of people living there when the land devours these people? Obviously, these were stories. These were lies. It was something they made up in their fantasies. All the information contradicted itself.

5. FALSE TALES

Verse 33 of chapter 13 says: *“We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes.”* They looked like grasshoppers to themselves. That’s fine, no problem. If you want to think of yourself as a grasshopper — be a grasshopper. I’m not stopping you. **You** want to be a grasshopper? — be a grasshopper! But now listen to the next thing *“and we looked the same to them.”* Now, picture the situation of a group of spies that are running around there. They are hiding, they are looking and they are very careful. They are spies. They see this great big guy. It’s their enemy. They come up to him and pull him a little bit on his pants: “Hello! Do I look like a grasshopper to you?” That’s what they said: *“And we looked the same to them.”*

How did they know that? Did they go to these giants and say, “Good morning, do I look like a grasshopper to you?” See, they never asked any of these giants. It was their imagination. It was totally false. It was not from God. The Bible even says that these giants were scared stiff and had no courage at all.



6. WEEPING WITH SELF PITY

In chapter 14 here is the reaction of the people to these false stories, these false reports of these men. Did they accept the true report? No, anything that was good and of common sense and logical they rejected it and they accepted the fairy tale. That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. They spent the whole night in panic. They were the whole night in fear. They spent the whole night worrying about the future. They could have listened to Caleb who said: “God is going to go with us.” In the morning they woke up with a headache. See what they told Moses. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly said to them, *“If only we had died in Egypt or at least in this desert. Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?”* Now, what they are saying here is: “I don’t want to die with a sword. I would rather die from hunger or thirst here in the sand.” Tell me, what is better about dying in the wilderness, in the desert, than dying in Israel? “Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?”

That’s how some of your team members are going to feel this winter. They will be thinking about the difficulties of this discipleship ministry, looking back and longing for some normal work in a factory or a warehouse or with some mission or working part-time in a church. “Let us quit and leave this beautiful God-given ministry.”

7. SHOCKED WITH SHAME

Let us look at verse 5. “Then Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh who were among those who explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire assembly: the land we passed through and explored is exceeding good.” Brothers, you better fall face down before God when you get some bad report from a leadership training coach or student. You better weep and weep good. We ought to be brokenhearted and weep about brothers who complain and refuse to do spiritual work. **Mark this down.** God wants to know whether you have a passion for lost souls. Don’t **you** join the grippers! We ought to be shocked with shame.

8. RECOGNIZING GOD'S DOINGS

Local Church Leadership programs are one of the best discipleship methods you can find anywhere in the world. Sometime ago we had a couple visiting us from America. The lady had heard that we were doing discipling here. She had heard of the **Basic Christian Life** course and thought it was nice. But then she went and visited some of the Local Leadership Training sessions. They came back and asked if they could see some of the materials, so we got the files out from the instructors. We got some files out that showed your growth, how that

in a just a few years the New Life ministry had grown from just one or two groups of students into over 200 and every year it's growing. They looked at some of the courses in English. She said, "But this isn't just discipleship. This is not just *"Basic Christian Life"*. This is a full seminary program. These are heavy duty courses. A local church seminary program in Ukraine with over 2000 students. Probably one of the biggest seminary programs in the world. Why did you not tell us about this earlier?" Then they wanted to help us. They recognized what God is doing here in Ukraine. Praise God for that. It truly is His work.

Look at chapter 14 verse 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." God is going to give it to us. If God is pleased with you, He will give it to you.

A provincial church superintendent went for a visit to a

distant city and there he was encouraged to go to Ukraine. They told him, "Yes, we have a nice group of students here, a nice stationary program and we are using the course leadership materials, but you know what? You need to go to Ukraine. In Ukraine New Life for Churches is using a better method and it's much bigger. You need to go and talk with the brothers over there." This pastor, oh, alleluia, went home and told our course coach brother, "Now we understand it better, please come!" Then we could go into that new region and begin to minister there. God opened the door and gave it to us. God was pleased with us and He gave it to us.



9. SWALLOW UP THE OBSTACLES

"Only don't rebel against the Lord and do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up," verse nine. The land isn't going to swallow us up. We are going to swallow them up. I know some of your students are going to stop studying, some churches are going to be unhappy — don't worry about that. God has already given us the victory. There are already more than 2000 students here who finished the preliminary course. God has already given us the victory. All your obstacles, all your difficulties, all your problems — we are going to swallow them up.

Last year one New Life coaching ministry had a multitude of obstacles but at the end — 500 students finished a course. Alleluia! Never mind the obstacles! Never mind the sweat! Never mind the struggles — we are going to swallow them up. We are going to establish many new churches.

There are churches in Australia that want to help. We have a church in Northern Ireland that is helping one province. We are having some churches in Canada that are helping some of our brothers and sisters here. There are several churches in America sending in money. We have a church in England that is helping us. The whole world is looking at you.

Listen to the rest of this verse: *"We will swallow them up. Their protection is gone but the Lord is with us. Don't be afraid of them."* Don't be afraid of the obstacles, of the complainers, of the grippers, of people who say you need more money, people who say: "You can't do it," because their protection is gone. God is with us. It is so obvious that the Lord is just helping us over and over again.



10. GOD'S WRATH UPON UNBELIEVING BELIEVERS

But what was the response of the people? The whole assembly talked about stoning them. I don't want to read the whole part of the rest of the chapter because it is negative. God had to deal with these rebellious people. God was very disappointed with them. We want to read at least verse 22, the last sentence in verse 22: "...I performed miracles in Egypt and in the desert but you disobeyed me and tested Me ten times." God was saying, "The people have seen My glory. They saw what I have done for them. They saw My miracles in Egypt and in the wilderness, but disobeyed anyway."

God did ten unique miracles among the unbelievers in Egypt. Then we read that in the desert He did ten miracles for believers as well but the believers rebelled against God ten times also. Now, they had been in the desert for only two years. That means about every two and a half months they rebelled against God and God did a unique miracle for them. God did ten miracles for the unbelievers. They refused to believe. They were killed. God did ten miracles for the believers. They refused to believe Him. They were destroyed.

11. VICTORY FOR JOSHUA AND CALEB

But to those that believed God gave victory. Verse 24: "*But because My servant Caleb has a different spirit and fears Me wholeheartedly, I'll bring him into the land he went to and his descendants will inherit it.*" To the others He said, verse 28: "*Assure yourselves, declares the Lord — I'll do to you the very thing I heard you say. In this desert your bodies will fall.*" Remember, earlier they asked why couldn't they die in this desert? God says: "You want to die in the desert? Go, die in the desert!" That's exactly what happened to them.

12. VICTORY FOR THE VICTORIOUS

Then in verse 30 we read "except Caleb, son of Jephunneh and Joshua, son of Nun." The ones that feared God wholeheartedly were blessed. Joshua, the son of Nun became the future leader. Caleb became the main conqueror for the tribe of Judah, for the Bethlehem and Jerusalem regions, the key part of the Holy Land. Brothers and sisters, this is God's Word. It's for you. **Take it. Believe it. Use it.**

The land is looking for strong new leaders who will take on large sections of the land and totally Christianize them. New Life church based leadership training needs leaders who will prepare hundreds of students to do spiritual warfare and become overcomers and conquerors for Jesus Christ. We need church leaders who will start hundreds of new churches.

Take the inheritance. It's in your hand as to what is going to happen to this precious land. We've had many years of bondage. If we don't conquer the land now, people will die for another 40 years in an intellectual desert. It's God's Word. It's your opportunity. You can make a decision and say, "I will be like Caleb. I'll be like Joshua."

Moses didn't inherit it. Aaron didn't inherit it. It's given to you to inherit it.

Amen brothers! Let us do it! Amen.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

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