

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Joshua 15-17

- Joshua and Israel have subdued the inhabitants of the Promise Land, enough so that they can take some time to divide the land amongst the tribes. But before they begin Caleb of the tribe of Judah, Joshua's oldest and dearest friend approaches him and reminds him of what Moses had promised to give to him, and in honoring that promise Joshua allows Caleb to choose his inheritance instead of having it picked out and given to them like the other tribes.

V1-63

- **V1-12** describe the boundaries of Judah, and because they were the largest of the tribes their inheritance exceeded that of any of the others in the southern region of the land. **V13-20** we went over some last week as it describes some of the heroic feats done by Caleb in subduing the area that he asked for, now we'll go into further detail of the faith and courage Caleb displayed in not only asking for the high country in which the giants of the land dwell, but also in inspiring others to go out and grab what God had promised to give to all of them.
- Earlier in **14:10-12** Caleb had told his friend Joshua and everyone within ear shot that at eighty five he was as strong, vibrant, and vigorous now as he ever was when he was younger, so instead of asking for a lounge chair on the beach or a cabin on the shores, he says give him the mountains in which the meanest and baddest of people (the Anakim) live.
- I love this story for you can see clearly very practical and important lessons that will help us remain active and alert spiritually, even as we age physically. For instead of becoming dull, desensitized, and lethargic, where we've checked all but checked out spiritually > **2 Cor 3:18** says God wants to take us from glory to greater glory, where instead us getting weaker spiritually we are getting stronger, and growing deeper in our walk with God until the day our Lord decides to take us to heaven, that is the example that we are going to see with Caleb.
- The area Joshua gave to his friend was called "**Kirjath Arba**", Kirjath means city, and Arba large and loud, and its named after its founder a giant called Arba, so Caleb inherits the big and loud city where the giants live. But that doesn't scare Caleb because he is holding on to a promise that was made to him over forty years ago > **Deut 1:35-36** says The Lord told Caleb that because he "**wholly followed Him**" that everywhere the soles of his feet touched God would grant him the land as an inheritance for him and his children.
- So to Caleb these giants were like weeds for them to move in order to plant their spiritual crops, so he drove out the three descendants of Anak the father of the giants. Caleb's daring faith then rubbed off on his future son in law, who also happened to be his nephew, a man named Othniel who goes out and enlarges their territory by taking "**Kirjath Sepher**".

- Later in **Judg 3:7-11** when Israel forgot all that The Lord had done for them and started worshipping false gods like baal and asherah, The Lord became angry with them and allowed them to fall into Canaanite bondage until He raised up a man named Othniel and The Spirit of God came upon him and he prevailed against the Canaanites and freed Israel.
- His faith was also passed down to his daughter for after being given a field she also asked for the lower and upper springs to irrigate it and Caleb gave them to her. This shows that Caleb's example of faith was more valuable to both his family and his tribe, than all the property that he inherited and claimed for them. **V63** sadly for the rest of Judah it was a different story, as they couldn't drive out the Jebusites and take Jerusalem, and remember what the lord said if they couldn't drive everyone out > **Num 33:55-56**.

Chapter 16

V1-10

- **V4, 10**, just like Judah the men of Ephraim did not completely drive out the Canaanites as they put business practices above what God had commanded them to do. Instead of driving them out they decided to put them to work so they placed them under tribute V10 in order to get free or cheap labor, that would gain them additional wealth or so they thought.
- This business decision would later prove spiritually disastrous, for in the days of the Judges the Canaanites rose up and fought against Israel and reversed the arrangement, enslaving many of the Jews just as God said would happen. Another example of the spiritual principle of tolerating and excusing some pet sin, only to wake up to the grim realization that it has risen up and possessed what was once yours, and thus driving you to spiritual defeat.

Chapter 17

V1-18

- **V1-4** the half tribe of Manasseh receives their inheritance and one of the tribal leaders named Zelophehad didn't have any sons to inherit land, and in the nation of Israel only sons inherited property so this is a big problem, because if Zelophehad family can't inherit land and pass it down then that land would have to go to someone else and it would disportion the families within the tribe and cause chaos between the families.
- **Num 27** the daughters went to Moses and asked if The Lord would allow them to receive their father's inheritance since there was no sons to receive it, and the Lord made an injunction that said from now on if there are no sons to inherit but only daughters then they may pass the property down to them so that the families inheritance would stay intact.
- **V12-13** one problem solved but two others pop up, **1st** they copy what they saw Ephraim do and don't completely drive out the Canaanites, instead they also decide to put them to tribute and let them stay and work the land. **2nd** they complain about their land inheritance not being enough since they are really two tribes divided into one being of Joseph's line **V14**.

- **V15-18** Joshua's reply is both wise and spiritual, since you are a great people, and you see yourselves as special then go and take the land for yourselves like Caleb did. No one went and fought for him he went up into the mountains and fought and took the land from the giants, why don't you do the same. I love it! Often you have people asking why aren't the church doing this or why aren't they doing that, well why aren't you going to the church and saying I am going to do what I see is a glaring need and therefore fill in the gap myself.