

COURAGEOUS WARRIOR - GIVE ME MY MOUNTAIN!

Joshua 12-14

The primary text for my message today is found in **chapter 14: 6-15**, regarding the “testimony of Caleb.” There Caleb declared, **“Give me my mountain,”** that portion of land which Moses promised him, in Canaan.

By way of application God has given every believer a “mountain, a **“purpose with promise,”** to live out, in this life. The apostle Paul, *regardless of his circumstances*, was confident he could attain his “mountain,” *fulfill God’s will for his life*, according to God’s *divine* ability!

(Philippians 1:6) “...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” My goal today, is to encourage you to “ask” for your “mountain,” just as Caleb did!

In **chapters 12** we have a recap of Israel’s triumph over the pagan inhabitants of Canaan, under the leadership of Moses, on the east side of the Jordan River. The two kings Moses defeated on that side of the Jordan River were, Shihon King of the Amorites and Og the King of Bashan, **(12:1-6)**. In **(v.7-24)** we find the list of nations conquered under Joshua’s leadership, west of the Jordan. **(Map showing division of the land available at Life Center)**

In **chapter 13** - although the Land of Canaan had been conquered, complete “possession” of the land, had not yet taken place. **(Joshua 13:1) Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.**

In **(v.8-12)** Joshua divides the land east of the Jordan, among the “two and one-half tribes,” ***Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh***, according to the command of Moses. **(Numbers 34:14, 15).**

However, **(Joshua 13:13) Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.** (Book written between 1400-1370 B.C.)

These inhabitants, (Geshurites and Maachathites) *at a later day*, would “trouble” Israel in David’s day. They would be defeated by David’s commander of Israel’s army, Joab. **2 Samuel 10:6.**

(v.14) Of all the tribes, *the tribe of Levi, the priestly tribe, did not* receive an inheritance in the land. This *fact* is also mentioned in (13:33, 14:4). **(v.14) Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the Lord God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them.** A command of Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:1, 3.**

The “**Tribe of Levi**” is a foreshadow of the church. **(1 Peter 2:9) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.** Therefore, God, in Christ, is our “inheritance,” our “portion,” that which “sustains” us!

(Colossians 3:2-4) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

In (v.15-23) *on the east side of the Jordan*, The Tribe of Reuben receives their portion of the land. **Note – (v.22)** at this time, the “greedy” prophet Balaam, who was hired to “curse” Israel (**Numbers 23**) - *but could not*, is “killed” by the Israelites. The land apportioned to the Gadites is found in (13:24-28); and the land allotted to the half Tribe of Manasseh is described in (13:29-33).

Now we come to chapter 14 and the meat of our message today. In **chapter 14** we find the introduction to the division of the land west of the Jordan River.

(Joshua 14:6-15) 6 Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the Lord said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. 7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. 9 So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.'

10 And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. 12 Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."

13 And Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. 14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel. 15 And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.

Caleb – Hebrew means: dog. Dogs can be tenacious, “determined” creatures. I read where one dog, after being accidentally left at a highway rest stop, *found its way home*, some “forty miles” away, some 26 days later! **Caleb possessed a “*doggish*,” tenacious faith.** A faith determined to possess that which God had “promised!”

The popular legal phrase, “*Possession is nine tenths of the law*,” simply means: “ownership” is easier to maintain if a person has possession of something and difficult to enforce if a person does not.” **Caleb’s life is an example of how to “possess” that which God has promised, *His will*, for our lives! Here we find “four” aspects of faith.**

First, GOD’S TIMING - (v.7) Caleb declared, “*I was forty years old, back in (Numbers 13), when Moses sent me out to spy out the Land of Canaan.*” He’s now “**85!**”

(Numbers 13:30-31) Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

Caleb, even back then, did not measure success by the strength of the “opposition,” but the “power” of his God! The land which Caleb had spied out was Hebron. Hebron: means - community or alliance. Satan seeks to destroy the “community” and “alliance” of the church, by *deceit, doubt, and fear*, thus “robbing” us of our His purpose, (will) “our mountain”; where *love, joy, and peace* resides!

Caleb “waited” “45 years” for the fulfillment of God’s will, in his life! I’m sure there were times he had “doubts.” Times he felt “overlooked.” **What do you think he felt when Joshua was chosen to lead the people, after the death of Moses?**

Was he not one of the two (*out of twelve spies*), who believed God? Surely God would appoint him to at least be “second” in command! But that wasn’t the case.

How did he feel those “forty” years in the wilderness as he watched his generation dying off? Satan must have had a “field day” with his “dream,” and “vision,” regarding his “mountain!” Yet, despite the passage of time and his “age,” he was “determined” to possess what God had promised!

(Ecclesiastes 3:11) He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. God’s timing is offensive to the rebellious. Just like your parents time verses your time when to come home after a date.

He has placed “” within our hearts, thus, his timing is according to eternity to that which is “eternal,” not “temporal!” *No one can “find out,” figure it out, only God knows the end from the beginning.* Our part is to “trust” Him! **Caleb trusted in God’s timing!**

“It was in his heart!” (v.7b) His report to Moses was “heart-felt,” he “believed God!” Possessing your mountain requires more than just a “good idea.” ***As it’s been said, there are “good ideas” and “God ideas!”*** The latter will stand the test of time!

(Galatians 6:9) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

The second aspect of faith we find in Caleb’s life is DEVOTION – (v.8). ***“But I wholly followed the Lord my God.” (v.8b). Wholly Hebrew “mala” – to be full, armed.*** To wholly possess our “mountain” requires “wholly” following the Lord!

Caleb witnessed the Red Sea and Jordan parting, water coming forth from the rock, manna from heaven, the pillar of “cloud” by day and the “fire” by night, in the wilderness, the parting of the Jordan, Israel’s enemies defeated, etc.! ***Why would God now “renege” on granting him his “mountain?”***

(Hebrews 10:23) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Based on God's faithfulness, Caleb "wholly" followed the Lord!

What does it mean on a daily basis to "wholly follow the Lord? Josiah – when Hilkiah the high priest found the "Book" (of the Law of Moses) discarded by the wicked king Manasseh, Josiah's father – Josiah wept and tore his clothes. The Lord God said to **King Josiah**.

(2 Kings 22:19) "...because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the Lord.

A tender heart in relation to the word of God is a heart which "wholly" follows the Lord! It wasn't that Caleb was better than the others, but he was one who "wholly" believed and revered the "word of God!"

Thus, wholly following the Lord *daily*, also means "wholly" "repenting" when we realize we have "violated" His word! **(1 John 1:9). The heart which wholly seeks the Lord will have peace, a future and hope. To them God will reveal Himself!**

(Jeremiah 29:11-13) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

The third aspect of faith found in Caleb's life is PURPOSE – (v.10, 11). ***"God has kept me alive all these years..." Now at the age of "eighty-five" Caleb still believed God had a purpose and plan, A "mountain" for his life! Dear friend – Book: "Retirement Your New Adventure" – Bob Boylan - (Grandma Pittman).***

"Stop" discounting your life, whether you be young or old (seasoned), God is still writing "new chapters" in your life! ***This is another reason we celebrate communion because Christ has conquered death and the grave, our lives are not lived in "vain," but in "victory!"***

(1 Corinthians 15:58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

“Abounding,” glorifying Christ, through our lives is the believer’s “purpose!” Caleb lived focused on his “purpose,” and not his “problems!”

The last aspect of faith, we find in Caleb’s life is, **RESOLVE** – (v.12) *“Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said.”*

Note - Caleb was not trying to “camp out” on someone else’s “mountain.” This was “his mountain,” which God ordained, *specifically* for him! *It’s easy to be a critic of other mountains, (lives), especially when you are “along for the ride!” But God wants to know if you are climbing “your mountain.”*

The “mountain” Caleb requested, was not an “easy” one! The devil will not allow you access to your mountain, without “opposition.” Caleb noted, the “Anakim,” (giants) and “fortified” places, were there! Yet he possessed a “steely resolve,” to “trust” Resolve means “no turning back!”

When Julius Caesar landed on the shores of Britain with his Roman legions, he took a bold and decisive step to ensure the success of his military venture. Ordering his men to march to the edge of the Cliffs of Dover, he commanded them to look down at the water below.

To their amazement, they saw every ship in which they had crossed the channel engulfed in flames. Caesar had deliberately cut off any possibility of retreat. Now that his soldiers were unable to return to the continent, there was nothing left for them to do but to advance and conquer! And that is exactly what they did.

Caleb believed, if God was with him, who could stop him! **(Romans 8:31-32) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

CONCLUSION: *Because of Mount Calvary, we have a “mountain,” a divine destiny, in Christ, according to sovereign will of God!*

By commemorate Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, we declare our lives are risen with His, for the “glory” of God! According to **His time** and a life of faith, **devotion, purpose, and resolve**, according to God’s grace, mercy, and love!

(Psalm 84:11b-12) No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, Blessed is the man who trusts in You!