

Numbers 13-14 –12 November 2020

“Bold, Simple Steps Into New Life”

Introduction

*In Num 9-10, Israel is *actually moving* toward the Promised Land for the 1st time

*They’re no longer leaving slavery; but headed toward freedom

*In Num 11-12, after just 3 days of marching, we saw discontentment caused Israel to complain about what they have, who they are, and where they are in life

*Today, they have the chance to come into Promised Land after only 1-2 yrs, but something tragic happens.

*Although these 2 chapters are some of Israel’s greatest failures, we can turn it around & learn.

Today, we’ll see 4 keys for boldly, simply stepping into new life

1st key for boldly, simply stepping into new life is to simply do the job in front of you (Chap 13:1-25)

Read Chap 13:1-16

1. 12 spies, 1 from each tribe, sent to search (spy) the land that God is giving to them
2. Vs 16 – Moses changes Oshea to Je-oshua
 - a. From salvation to God is salvation
3. What was the purpose of spying out the land?
 - a. To check to see if they could take it?
 - b. No, it was to get a preview of what blessing God was going to provide to them
4. Job #1: simply to what put in front of you to do
 - a. Get involved w/ what God's put around you
 - b. Want a new life? Don't stay in same old thing. Move into God's calling for you.
5. It may seem like just small steps that aren't going anywhere.
 - a. But small, GOOD steps build good habits.

Read Chap 13:17-20

1. So, go check the people, the cities, & the land
2. Again, what's the point of getting this preview?
 - a. To see what God is about to bless them with.
 - b. Notice vs 16 – ‘Be ye of good courage’
 - i. It means “Be strengthened”
 - ii. This should be encouraging to them

Read Chap 13:21-25

1. They spy thru the land from south to north for 40 days.
2. There's no mystery to this, they just moved forward day after day doing what was in front of them to do.
 - a. In moments of depression, just pray & thank God then do what's next.
 - b. In moments of being overwhelmed, just pray & thank God then do what's next.
 - c. In moments of staleness, just pray and thank God then do what's next.

2nd key for boldly, simply stepping into new life is to boldly decide by faith, not fear (Chap 13:26 - 14:10a)

Read Chap 13:26-29

1. The land is great, and the people & cities are great too.
2. So, look, this is just the facts.
 - a. They're not expressing if they think that this is good or bad.
 - b. They're just giving the report

Read Chap 13:30-33

1. Now we know that the majority of the people were happy that the land was great, but they were fearful of the great people and cities.
2. Caleb is ready to advance
3. The 10 spies are sitting in fear b/c they're not looking to God & his promises, but the trouble.
4. They all had the same facts, but Caleb had faith
 - a. Why? B/c God promised to do it

Read Chap 14:1-4

1. Fear to move forward into God's best, will lead you back into bondage...to sin.
2. What makes people & rivers crooked?
 - a. They take the easy path...
 - i. Don't do anything new
 - ii. Don't see God get involved
 - iii. Don't have sense of fulfilling your purpose
 - b. On a path of faith...
 - i. You're challenged to take new projects
 - ii. You're depending on God daily, for changes that can't happen otherwise

Read Chap 14:5-10a

1. Joshua & Caleb ask the people for faith in God and the people want them stoned
2. Vs 8 – “If the Lord delight in us”
 - a. Read I Sam 15:22
 - b. It's not what we can do for Him, but what He will do for us when we obey by faith

3rd key for boldly, simply stepping into new life is to simply plead for mercy, not justice (Chap 14:10b-39)

Read Chap 14:10b-12

1. Lord wants to destroy Israel & start again w/ Moses (for 2nd time – Exo 32:10)
2. Vs 11 – He given them every reason to believe He will do what He said He will do

Read Chap 14:13-16

1. Moses knows God will not forsake those He's chosen, that would give others reason to lack faith
2. We're kept by God, not b/c we keep earning it, but b/c He keeps having great mercy/grace for us

Read Chap 14:17-19

1. Why could God pardon?
 - a. Since Egypt it's not been by merit, but grace
 - b. God has the power now to forgive, but you need to ask

Read Chap 14:20-25

1. Vs 21 - Instead of destroying Israel, giving the nations a reason to doubt God's ability; God will punish only the unbelieving Israelites, to get glory.
2. Vs 25 – Now they'll not go into the land yet
 - a. Now the promise will be delayed
 - b. God is rich in mercy, but that doesn't mean that there's not consequences to our sin

Read Chap 14:26-32

1. Pardoned but Israel's punishment is that those 20 & older, that didn't believe, won't go into land

Read Chap 14:33-35

1. Punishment will be 40 year, 1 yr for each day they spied the land
2. Remember, what is the punishment for?
 - a. Whoredoms, unfaithfulness to God, idolatry

Read Chap 14:36-39

1. The 10 evil spies die while Joshua, Caleb live

4th key for boldly, simply stepping into new life is to boldly act while there's time (Chap 14:40-45)

Read Chap 14:40-43

1. It's too late, not just b/c they've been punished
 - a. It's too late to obey, b/c in vs 25 God has redirected them toward the Red Sea
 - b. This doesn't mean we give up every time we disobey, it means we obey what God is telling us today.
 - c. Exp:
 - i. You have High School sweetheart you think God wants you to marry, but you don't.
 - ii. Later you marry someone else in the Lord
 - iii. Even later you meet your H.S. sweetheart, could you divorce & marry her? No!!

2. God's will is for us to turn and obey him today.
 - a. Read Eccl 9:10
 - b. Turn to Matt 21:28-31
 - c. We don't serve God yesterday; we serve Him today! (REPEAT)

Read Chap 14:44-45

1. They tried to obey God's command from yesterday instead of from today, and they failed.
2. It was more important for them to learn faith & obedience rather than to have them inherit the Promised land.
 - a. It's more important for us to learn to trust God, rather than to simply receive blessings
3. Turn to Heb 3:8-11
 - a. Faith brings obedience, which brings rest
 - b. Trust brings action, which brings peace

Conclusion

God has a new life of rest for us to inherit. It takes some bold simple steps to walk into it.

1. **Simply do the job in front of you**
 - a. Small, positive steps build godly habits
 - b. Take the mystery out of God's will and simply do what is right today
2. **Decide your actions by faith, not fear**
 - a. Are we looking at the trouble or the promise of God?
 - b. Don't look for the easy path, look for the worthy path
3. **Plead for mercy, not justice**
 - a. Our relationship w/ God began by His mercy & grace forgiving us & will only continue that way...not b/c we earn it
4. **Act while there's time**
 - a. Redeem the time, the days are evil (Eph 5)
 - b. Don't live in the past, but serve God today!