

Faith to Seize a Promising Future

Numbers 14:18-24

Numbers 13:26 *And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.*

His Promises are Sure

“We don’t hope, hypothesize, or hallucinate. We don’t postulate, speculate, or fabricate. We don’t toss and turn in anxiety. We simply know. We know God, therefore we know His power, understand something of His providence, and can trust His provision. It’s certain. For sure. Positive. Inevitable. It’s God’s guarantee, and it can never be otherwise. His promises are sure.”

- Robert G. Morgan

Joshua 1:5 *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (V.6) Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.*

I. The circumstance of a promising future.

A. It was a circumstance that would require fortitude.

Numbers 13:27 *And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. (V.28) Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great:*

B. It was a circumstance that would require faith.

Numbers 14:8 *If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. (V.9) Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.*

In contrast to the fear of the people was the fearless confidence of Caleb; God declared that he followed me fully.”

- David Jeremiah

II. The corruption that would prevent a promising future.

A. Their hearts proved faithless despite God’s provision.

Numbers 14:22 *Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, . . .*

A Superficial Spirit that Lacked Faith

- ◆ It is a faith that goes on how one feels instead of what one knows. (*“We are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.”* Numbers 13:31)
- ◆ It is a faith that is more concerned about being comfortable than courageous. (*“And there we saw giants . . . and we were . . . as grasshoppers . . . in their sight.”* Numbers 13:33)
- ◆ It is a faith that looks at the problem instead of looking at God’s faithfulness. (*“they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel,”* Numbers 12:32)
- ◆ It is a faith that is so enthralled by the physical, that the supernatural does not seem feasible.

Numbers 14:2 . . . *Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would God we had died in this wilderness! (V.3) And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? (V.4) And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*

B. Their hearts proved faint despite God’s power.

Numbers 14:22 . . . *and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;* (Tempted 10 times, 10 Spies, 40 Days spying the land, 40yrs, in the wilderness, a year for every day.)

III. The courage to pursue a promising future.

A. His was a courage that came from following God fully.

Numbers 14:24 *But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.*

A Spiritual Faith that Was Full of Faith

- ◆ Caleb had allowed the evidence of God's faithfulness to produce a strong and vibrant faith in God.
- ◆ Caleb had great strength in faith because he walked by faith. (*V.24 Followed God fully.*)
- ◆ To Caleb, the most reasonable and plausible option was to trust God's sufficiency. (*the Lord is with us . . . Numbers 14:9*)
- ◆ His relationship with God and his knowledge of God had produced a right spirit in him. (*V.24*)

B. His was a courage that came from his faith in God.

Numbers 13:30 *And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

"God had given rest from wandering. Possession rather than promises. Varyity instead on monotony. Accomplishment rather than poverty. So, Caleb surveyed all of the bounties of the land. He sized up all the difficulties of the conquest. And then he declared that God was bigger than any problem they would face."

- **Adrian Rogers**

