

THE COURAGE EQUATION

MOTHER'S DAY

Pastor Lisa Seaton | May 14, 2023

I. THE TWELVE SPIES

Numbers 13:1-3

The Lord now said to Moses, “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land **I am giving** to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.” So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He sent out twelve men...

Numbers 13:17-23

Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: “Go north through the Negev into the hill country. See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see.” So they went up and explored the land...

When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs.

Numbers 13:25-33

After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! The Amalekites live in the Negev, and the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. The Canaanites live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan Valley.”

But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. “**Let’s go at once** to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!”

But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” **So they spread this bad report** about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!”

- There was a process to get to the promise.

II. THE COURAGE EQUATION

1. Perspective

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

- A. We may not always be able to choose the situation we find ourselves in, but we can choose how we respond to that situation.

Same Situation: Two Different Responses

Caleb and Joshua

Faith
Trust
Obedient
Courage

10 Spies

Fear
Doubt
Complaining
Convincing

- B. Rationalize => Ration lies

2. Faith

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick

- A. When we lose hope, we lose perspective on who God is and what He can do!

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of God.

- B. If you need hope – Read the promises of God!

God is always with me — **Joshua 1:9**

God is faithful — **Hebrews 10:23**

God designed me for a purpose. — **Ephesians 2:10**

God loves me deeply — **Romans 8:38**

God gives me joy — **Psalms 16:11**

God will strengthen me — **Isaiah 41:10**

God will give me wisdom — **James 1:5**

God can be trusted — **Hebrews 10:23**

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

3. Urgency

Number 13:30 Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

A. What is God asking you to do?

B. Faith isn't growing in our waiting, fear is growing!

4. God is with us!

Numbers 14:6-9

They said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! And if the lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. Do not rebel against the lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, **but the Lord is with us!** Don't be afraid of them!"