

Pastor John Miller, 06-07-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do If...I Was One of the 12 Spies?

Purpose: Provoke people to imitate the faith and obedience of Joshua and Caleb and reject the doubt and fear of the other 10 spies.

Truth for Today: We receive God's promises by imitating the faith and obedience of Joshua and Caleb and rejecting the doubt and fear of the other 10 spies.

Topic: Discipleship, Faith, Obedience, Fear, Obstacles, Consequences

Text: Numbers chapter 13 & 14

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

## What Would I Do If...I Was One of the 12 Spies?

### I. Introduction

- A. **Building plans**: Permits and bids in process. Start construction in July.
- B. **July 4<sup>th</sup>** is America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Christians are seeking God for a spiritual awakening and rededicating themselves and the nation to God. **Pic** God, the Bible and prayer played a vital role in America's founding.
- C. Ben Franklin motion at the Constitutional Convention 1787:...groping as it were in the dark to find political truth...how has it happened, Sir, that we have not once thought of humbly applying to the **Father of lights** to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had **daily prayer** in this room for the **divine protection.** ” **Our prayers...were graciously answered.** All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed...a **Superintending providence** (def. *the protecting care of God*) in our favor...And have we now forgotten that **powerful friend**? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that **God governs in the affairs of men.** And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? I therefore...move, that **prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven**...be held in this Assembly **every morning** before we proceed to business...**Prayer America** every Sunday till the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Review series: “What Would I Do If...”. We're looking at Biblical characters to show us the result of their good and bad decisions so we can live a life pleasing to God.
- E. Today we'll learn a lesson from 12 spies who Moses sent to explore the Promised Land. God had supernaturally delivered them from Egypt to Mt. Sinai. Then Moses sent 12 spies to spy out the Promised Land. The result was a disaster, and they'll teach us about the spiritual power of faith and obedience and doubt and fear.
- F. Title: What Would I Do If...I Was One of the 12 Spies? (highlight 2 OT chapters)

### II. Whose report will you believe?

- A. **[Nu. 13 (NLT)]** The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land **I am giving** to the Israelites...<sup>3</sup>**Moses did** as the LORD commanded]
  1. Moses' actions were based on a promise from God. God gave him a promise and a command and he obeyed. \*Sometimes we base our faith on a need or desire. That's not wrong but it doesn't have the same guarantee as a word from God.

2. Life App #1: The best starting place for faith is a Word from God. E.g. How? (1) God gives you a promise through a bible verse **L cancer**, (2) you have peace when praying or (3) godly counsel or prophecy and the HS confirms it. Then we act.
- B. [Vs 25...the men returned...<sup>27</sup> This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country...<sup>28</sup> **But** the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there...<sup>30</sup> **But Caleb** tried to quiet the people...“**Let’s go at once to take the land,**” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!”<sup>31</sup> But the other men (10 *spies*)...**disagreed**. “**We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!**”<sup>32</sup> So **they spread this bad report**...among the Israelites...]
1. Whose report will you believe? Will we believe God’s promise or the “facts”? God promised to give them the land but from a factual pov based on experience they reasoned it to be impossible. What they were really saying was, ‘God can’t’.
  2. Life App#2: Will I believe God’s promise or what the circumstances tell me? Will faith trump fact, reason, experience and ChatGPT or visa-versa.
- C. **Numbers 14 (NLT)** Then the **whole community** began weeping...<sup>3</sup> “Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die...<sup>6</sup> Joshua...and Caleb<sup>7</sup>...said to all the people...“The land we traveled through...is a wonderful land!<sup>8</sup> And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land...<sup>9</sup> **Do not rebel against the Lord, and don’t be afraid** of the people. They are only **helpless prey** to us! They have **no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don’t be afraid** of them]
1. What did Caleb ‘see’ that the other 10 spies didn’t ‘see’. Caleb saw God and the others saw the problem. He believed God could do what was humanly impossible.
  2. Life App #3: Faith doesn’t deny facts; however, faith believes God can do what the facts, reason, and experience say is impossible.
  3. [Romans 4:18–21 (NIV) **Against all hope, Abraham...believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been **said to him**, “So shall your offspring be.”<sup>19</sup>...**he faced the fact** that his body was as good as dead...and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.<sup>20</sup> Yet **he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God**, but was strengthened in his **faith** and gave **glory** to God,<sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that **God had power** to do what he... **promised**.]
  4. Life App #4 Doubt can spread like a virus. 10 spies coughed unbelief and others caught it. Doubt has the power to erase our faith in God if allowed to grow in our mind. Doubt must be fought in the mind by believing what God said and saying it
- D. **Vs 10**...Then the glorious **presence of the Lord** appeared...<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people...**never believe me**...<sup>22</sup> not one of these people will ever enter that land...<sup>24</sup> But my servant **Caleb has a different attitude** (*ESV spirit*) than the others have. He has remained **loyal to me**, so I will bring him into the land...<sup>29</sup> every one of you who is twenty years old or older...will die.<sup>30</sup>...The only exceptions will be **Caleb...and Joshua**...]
1. Life App #5 When we reject faith in God, believing God can’t or won’t do what He said there will be consequences. We will miss the best God has for us. **We** bought this building and remodeled it during Covid because our leadership team

heard God and acted. God paid it off in 2 years and our outreach to the world multiplied because of faith and obedience.

### III. Conclusion:

- A. **What Would I Do If...I Was One of the 12 Spies?** Am I more motivated by faith and obedience or doubt, reason, experience or fear? I want to believe God like Joshua and Caleb. How about you?

### IV. Response

- A. Prayer:
- B. Souls. Israel couldn't defeat her enemies without God's help. We can't go to heaven without God's help. We need to act on his offer of salvation before it's too late.

### V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://wallbuilders.com/resource/franklins-appeal-for-prayer-at-the-constitutional-convention/>