

My Servant, Caleb

Spies' mission, Nu.13:1-5

40 year old, Caleb

- 17-20, spies' mission [10:11; Dt.1:2]
- 21-26, did as Moses commanded
 - 23, cluster of grapes



Symbol of Israel

Spies' mission, Nu.13

40 year old, Caleb

- 27-29, just as God promised
 - Strong people...
 - Fortified cities

Spies' mission, Nu.13

40 year old, Caleb

- 30-33, Caleb –
 - Resolve – let us go up at once
 - Reliance – we are well able to overcome it
 - Evil report of others: land eats people, 31-33 – “we” – seven; “God” – zero
 - Law: perjurer must receive sentence he sought to inflict on victim (Dt.19:16-19)
 - Death penalty – Nu.14:35-37

Spies' mission, Nu.14

- 1-4: trust Egyptians over God
- 5-10: blasphemy. Tore clothes (Gn.37)
 - 7-9, Joshua / Caleb agree with much that other spies said; land, people, defenses...
 - 10, stone them!
- 11-12: ten spies in real danger
- 20-24: Caleb's example – worthy of our imitation

I. Faith and Hope, 13:30

A contrast

We are well able...
(13:30)

We are not able...
(13:31)

Caleb saw opportunity based on God; others saw obstacles

- Size of God, not size of giants, counts
- Spies look at God through circumstances; Caleb looks at circumstances through God
(1 Sm.17)

A contrast

We are well able...
(13:30)

We are not able...
(13:31)

Spies unbelief was much greater threat than giants of Canaan, 14:11-12. Hb.3-4

- It's one thing to believe God exists...
It's another to trust Him.
- Nu.14:21-23 – saw God's signs, but...
- Nu.14:37 – spies died in wilderness

I. Faith And Hope, 13:30

II. Obedience, 14:6-9

Three classes of people

- **Disobedient:** don't care what God says, Ex.5:1-2
- **Great pretenders:** follow God to a point; swayed by crowds, popular opinion, ignore His directions

The great difference between the real leader and the pretender is that the one sees into the future, while the other regards only the present; the one lives by the day, and acts upon expediency; the other acts on enduring principles and for the immortality – Burke

Three classes of people

- Disobedient: don't care what God says, Ex.5:1-2
- Great pretenders: follow God to a point; swayed by crowds, popular opinion, ignore His directions
- Obedient: 14:9
 - Told truth against majority opposition
 - Obeyed God when truth was unpopular

Vote: 10-2 against God

I. Faith And Hope, 13:30

II. Obedience, 14:6-9

III. Self-denial, Courage,
Conviction, 14:9

Caleb's first thought: glory of God (9)

- Caleb followed God; others did own will
 - Many buckle to pressure
 - Ex.32, Aaron . . . 1 Sm.15, Saul

“...search for truth, hear truth, learn truth, love truth, speak the truth, hold the truth, defend the truth till death – Jan Hus

“Courage is knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared, and how not to fear what ought not to be feared”

I. Faith And Hope, 13:30

II. Obedience, 14:6-9

III. Self-denial, Courage...

**IV. Whole-hearted Devotion
to God, 14:9, 24**

Loving God with whole heart is not just a NT command

- Dt.6:5, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- 2 Cor.8:1-5
 - FIRST: gave themselves

I. Faith And Hope, 13:30

II. Obedience, 14:6-9

III. Self-denial, Courage...

IV. Whole-hearted Devotion...

V. Perseverance,
Josh.14:7-15

After 45 years . . .

- Caleb still active
- Caleb still devoted to God
- Josh.14:10
 - $40 + 38 = 78 \dots$
 - $78 + 7 = 85$
- Others started well; had same opportunities as Caleb...

After 45 years . . .

- Caleb still active
- Caleb still devoted to God
- Josh.14:10 Yet in all these things we are
- Josh.14:11, more than conquerors through
- Josh.14:12, Him who loved us – Ro.8:37
- Josh.14:13, Hebron – 2 Sm.5:4-5
- Josh.14:14, rewarded for total devotion to God.

Caleb – what made him different? (Joshua)

1. Bound to word of God, 14:6
2. Loyal to God, 14:7. Hb.4:2; Ps.106
3. Totally committed to God, 14:8
4. Remained faithful to God, 14:9-10
5. Conquered through God, 14:11
6. Trusted God, 14:12. Josh.14:15; 15:14
7. One man (two) with God: majority, 14:14
8. Channel for God, 15:17-19
9. No complaints, jealousy, bitterness...