Lessons from Caleb (a man who was fully devoted to God)

**Experience wholehearted devotion to God**

**Monday**

Read Numbers 13:1-25, 1 Chronicles 12:32

* *If you are a christian, you must be a spiritual leader. Spiritual leaders must be faithful, available and teachable.* ***Pray*** *today and ask God to help you to stand up and be a faithful spiritual leader.*

**Tuesday**

Read Numbers 13:26-33

* ***Journalize*** *the qualities that drove Caleb to stand up in front of 2 million hostile people and silence the negativity of his fellow spies.*

**Wednesday**

Read Numbers 14:1-25

* *Compare and contrast Caleb and everyone else’s attitudes and behaviors as they contemplated entering into the promised land.* ***Journalize*** *your thoughts.*

**Thursday**

Read Joshua 14:6-15, Joshua 15:13-14

* ***Meditate*** *on the outcome of Caleb’s being wholehearted toward God.*

**Friday**

Read Hebrews 11, Genesis 22:17

* *Faithful (‘being full of faith’) means to be 100% committed.* ***Pray*** *about your faithfulness to God.*

Lessons from Caleb (a man who was fully devoted to God)

Your commitment to God in 2020

Are you a church goer or a church builder?

How to be a devoted disciple of Jesus

Your attention span is very valuable

Your love with drive your life

This week: Lesson from Calab (a man who was fully devoted to God)

Numbers 13:1-33

“The Lord said to Moses, “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites.

God has you spy on your inheritance, you catch a glimpse, get a taste of what God’s promise land looks like, feels like looks like.

From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

Are you leading or following?  It’s time to pick up the pace,  it’s time to set the pace. Prepare yourself.

In the kingdom of heaven there are three qualities the spiritual leaders must have (and all of us are to be spiritual leaders)

Faithful - lasting love

Available - service purpose

Teachable - humble listeners

So at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. These are their names: from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zakkur; from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori; from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh; from the tribe of Issachar,

“from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command;”

1 Chronicles 12:32 NIV

 Igal son of Joseph; from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun; from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu; from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi; from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi; from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli; from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael; from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi; from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki. These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.) When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived.

Deut 2:10 Anakites were very tall

Joshua 14:15 NIV

“(Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.)   He was the greatest of the great fighting men. Imposing

“We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.””

Numbers 13:33 NIV

“No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.”

Joshua 11:22 NIV

Mostly likely we catch a glimpse of what these huge, fighting men were like - Goliath was most likely a descendent of Anak.

Don’t be surprised when old giants confront you here and there.  You need to re-taste victory. You are a giant slayer!

(Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.” Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

Calab, who was about 40 years old, silenced the people.  How do you silence negativity, lies, temptations, fear?

You rudely interrupt it as you would a person you don’t want to listen to anymore. You start talking, you start declaring the word of God. What works physically also works spiritually.

What was it about Caleb that caused him to be so confident, so bold, so positive?

Caleb, a single, solitary voice in the crowd, not even Moses said anything. He knew something many of us don’t believe. The reason he knew it because as we will see, he had one love and one love alone…God. It was all about what God wanted, not what he wanted. It was about getting God’s attention, instead of getting man’s attention. It was about making God happy, instead of making himself happy.

But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”

Why did these men sound so different from Caleb? They were negative and fearful?

Why are you negative?  Why are you fearful? Would you like to be more like Caleb…confident, bold, positive?

Are you going to let fear keep you from appropriating (taking hold of) and enjoying God’s blessing?

Are you going to live in mediocrity because some giant is opposing you?

And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.

The other spies couldn’t stand against Caleb’s boldness so they spread a negative report to everyone else directly.

They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.””

When you are negative, fearful and medocre, it spreads and affects others.

The giants were in one localized area of the promised land but negativity exaggerates and magnifies the problem.

There aren’t ten giants fighting you, there is one.

Notice the bad report wasn’t a balanced report…it only told of the bad with nothing good. The land wasn’t flowing with milk and honey but rather it devoured those living in it. Instead of looking at Almight God, they looked at themselves..’we were the size of grasshoppers.’

Another thought…whatever God calls you to is going to be bigger than you are. You are going to have to learn to trust in God because only He can get the job done for you.

A spiritual attack consists of the enemy spreading a negative report, whispering negative things in our mind.

Numbers 14:1-24 NIV

“That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.” (Back to slavery)

Unlike Caleb when you have mixed love, you belong to the world partly and you belong to God partly, you:

You weep and mourn not realizing you are on the threshold of victory and answered prayer

You complain about everything

You think you were better off before you knew God

You blame God

You are tempted to go back to slavery (relapse)

These are the attitudes Caleb didn’t have. Why was he different?

Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

He saw what was good, positive - this is a God-given orientation

He saw God was leading them into the land

Recognized it was the placed promised the - milk and honey

He saw that what they were doing was rebelling against God (sin of witchcraft)

Fear drove their decision

He saw their enemy’s protection was gone

He knew that the Israelites had God with them

 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

“No good deed will go unpunished.”

 Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.” Moses said to the Lord, “Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, ‘The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’ “Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared: ‘The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’ In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.” The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked.

How do we pray for those who don’t know Jesus?  We ask God to forgive them and He work forgiveness in them.

Acts 5:31

God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

Can you be a Christian and never enter into everything that God has for you?  YES! God wants to carry you there. Are you willing to follow God wholeheartedly?

But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Wholehearted:

You can pay attention to God

You can trust God

Your goal is to make God happy

You want to capture His attention instead of getting people’s attention

You seek your blessing from God instead of blessing from things and people

What did the end of Caleb’s life look like after being wholehearted?

Joshua 14:6 Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. 7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land.And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, 8but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly. 9 So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.’

10 “Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! 11I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then.12Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified,but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.”

Wholehearted devotion to God produces:

Longevity

Strength

A victorious spirit instead of being a victim

Trusting action

13Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. 14 So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.15 (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.)

Joshua 15:13 In accordance with the Lord’s command to him, Joshua gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah—Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.) 14From Hebron Caleb drove out the three Anakites—Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai, the sons of Anak.

When you follow Jesus wholeheartedly, the territory that your giants possess will become your inheritance.

* Your addiction and abuse becomes your testimony
* You can coach people on their finances because you used to be out of control financially
* You may have been told you are disabled but now you stand out at the the most productive worker
* You may have gone through several divorces but you help others avoid breaking up their family
* You may struggle with mental illness but now you guide those who are depressed and suicidal into the light of freedom

Hebrews 11:34 whose weakness was turned to strength

Genesis 22:17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,