

The Mind of Faith Sees the Opportunity
While the Mind of Unfaith Sees the Difficulty

Sermon Topic: The mind of faith sees the opportunity while the mind of unfaith sees the difficulty

Bible Verse: Numbers 13:26-33

Sermon Theme: When we have faith in what God has promised, we can see opportunities in life. When we see opportunities in life we become enthusiastic and can invest more fully into life and achieve our goals.

Main idea: The twelve spies return from the promised land, but eleven of them gave a negative report. They reported all the difficulties in taking the land: the warlike tribes residing there. They say the sons of Anak (a mythological giant) there, and they saw themselves as grasshoppers (Numbers 13:33)

But Caleb stilled the people. He said, “Let us take the land at once!” (Numbers 13:30). Why was Caleb’s attitude so different from the other spies? Why was he so enthusiastic in the face of the difficulties? Exploring the reasons is the basis of the sermon.

Reason 1: Caleb was confident because he had a clear vision of the promised land. Because he had a clear vision, he was very enthusiastic to obtain the goal: “Let us go at once...” But the key question is why did he have such a clear vision when the others did not?

Reason 2: Faith in God’s promise. Caleb remembered that God had “promised” the land to the tribes of Israel. He related, therefore, first to his faith in that promise of God, rather than to the practical difficulties in taking the land. Caleb’s faith was the basis of his view of what was real and possible.

Likewise, God has promised many specific things to us and yet like the spies many times we forget to relate to those promises of God and instead focus on the practical difficulties of our life.

What are some of the things that God has promised to us?

1. Eternal life (John 3:16). But how much do we look forward to the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life?
2. To forgive us. But do we trust God enough to repent for our sins?
3. To be with us (Matthew 18:12). But how much do we pray as if God is there?
4. That Christ will return (Matthew 24:30). But how expectant are we?

Who are we like? Caleb, or the other spies?

Summary: We must relate daily to the promise of God in order to find the pathway to joy and fulfillment. Otherwise the difficulties of life will weigh us down on our journey to the promised land.