

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 – Theme: Failure

The Twelve Spies

Numbers 13:1 – 14:4

Segment:

- The Lord instructs Moses to send 12 men into Canaan to report back on the land
- The Israelites reject Joshua & Caleb's feedback as well as Moses' leadership and are sent to the wilderness, as God appears at the Tabernacle to Moses
- The Israelites disobey the Lord after rejecting Moses' command to stay back and not attack Canaan, where they end up getting defeated in battle, and return to the wilderness for 40 years

Segment Questions:

- How do you think the 12 men felt after being handpicked by Moses to spearhead the research efforts in Canaan?
- Did these 12 men have an inclination that they were picked to provide leadership for the Israelites? Do you think all 12 believed they were providing strong leadership with their feedback and thoughts about how to proceed with Canaan?
- How do you think Joshua and Caleb felt after hearing the 10 men describe their impression of the land? How would you have felt and what would your actions have been?
- Do you think Joshua and Caleb felt a level of failure with the outcry against their efforts and desire to secure Canaan? How about Moses? How would you have felt if you were one of these men?
- Why do you think a second chance was not offered to the Israelites, who at the time, decided they had sinned and now wanted to head into Canaan to battle for the land?
- Why do you think the Israelites disobeyed God's command (coming from Moses) when he said not to enter Canaan because God would not be with them? Do you think they believed Moses?
- We all deal with failure, but what are some strategies that we can implement to avoid the fear of failure?

Action Questions:

- Do you ever feel like a "grasshopper" facing a giant in your everyday life?
- What evidence in your life proves God's fulfilling His promises?

Numbers 13:1 to Numbers 14:45

From: www.btstories.com

When the Israelites arrived at the border of Canaan, God said to Moses, "Send twelve men to search out the land." So Moses selected one man from each tribe of Israel. He told them to go into the land and bring back information about the people and their cities. He also told them to bring back some of the fruit that was growing in the land.

The men stayed in Canaan for forty days. When they came back, Caleb and Joshua were carrying a large cluster of grapes on a pole between them.

When the men gave their report, ten of the men said, "It's true, the land is great and flows with milk and honey. But, the people are big and powerful and live in cities with high walls. We felt like grasshoppers next to them!" But Caleb and Joshua gave a different report. They said, "We must go up and take this land. We can do it!"

The Israelites were afraid when they heard this report. They turned against Moses and said, "Did God bring us here to be killed? We could've died in Egypt! The men of this land will kill us and make slaves of our wives and children. We're going to select a new leader and go back to Egypt."

Joshua and Caleb ran out in front of the people and tore their clothes. They cried out, "This land is very good, and the Lord is about to give it to us! Don't rebel against him because you're afraid. The Lord is with us. We'll swallow up these people!"

The people of Israel attacked Joshua and Caleb, but suddenly the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tabernacle. God spoke and reminded Moses about all God did in Egypt and yet they still refuse to believe and test me. God said that this unbelieving generation will not get into the Promised Land.

God sent them back into the wilderness where they will stay for forty years until they're all dead. Joshua and Caleb followed without hesitation so they, along with the children will be allowed to go into the land of Canaan and God will give it to them.

Moses told the Israelites what the Lord had said, and they broke down and cried. The ten men who brought back a bad report were suddenly struck by a plague and died. Early the next morning the people said, "We now realize we've sinned. We'll go into the land as the Lord commanded."

Moses said, "No! The Lord is sending you back into the wilderness. Don't disobey him again. If you go into the land, you'll be defeated because God is not going with you."

Nevertheless, they went into Canaan against God's will. And just like Moses said, they were defeated in battle. Many were killed and the rest came back in disgrace.

So the people of Israel turned back into the wilderness where they remained for the next forty years. All of the adults who came out of Egypt would die there. Still, the Lord was with them and met their needs. Their clothes and shoes didn't get old, and God provided their daily food.