

Main Idea:

God's promises are true. When we face obstacles, will we walk in faith or fear?

Mosaic

The Dilemma (Caleb)

The Tabernacle (dwelling place of God) is set up right in the middle of the Hebrew children to show them that God is going to give them direction every step of the way. He then leads them through the wilderness with a cloud of smoke by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Numbers 13:1-2 (NLT) ¹The LORD now said to Moses, ²“Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.”

Numbers 13:17-20 (NLT) ¹⁷Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: “Go north through the Negev into the hill country. ¹⁸See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. ¹⁹See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? ²⁰Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see.” (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.)

Numbers 13:25-28 (NLT) ²⁵After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned ²⁶to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. ²⁷This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. ²⁸But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak!

Numbers 13:31-33 (NLT) ³¹But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. “We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” ³²So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: “The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. ³³We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!”

Numbers 14:1-4 (NLT) ¹Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. ²Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. “If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!” they complained. ³“Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?” ⁴Then they plotted among themselves, “Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!”

The people moved from a posture of FAITH in the promises of God to a posture of FEAR in a moment's notice because of a bad report.

Fear is cultivated in the soil of unbelief. If we have any fears, they all stem from unbelief.

The seed of fear in the life of a believer sprouts most often when two things happen: When we forget God's promises towards us and when we fail to recognize His faithful actions towards us.

Genesis 15:13-14(NLT) ¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth.

We can forget God's promises when we magnify the obstacles in our lives. By doing so, we minimize His promises.

Fear grows in the soil of uncertainty.

Numbers 13:30 (NLT) ³⁰But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

Faith is cultivated in the Soil of assurance.

Tired – Psalms 121:1-8 (TLB) ¹Shall I look to the mountain gods for help? ²No! My help is from Jehovah who made the mountains! And the heavens too! ³⁻⁴He will never let me stumble, slip, or fall. For he is always watching, never sleeping. ⁵Jehovah himself is caring for you! He is your defender. ⁶He protects you day and night. ⁷He keeps you from all evil and preserves your life. ⁸He keeps his eye upon you as you come and go and always guards you.

Anxious – Philippians 4:6-9 (NLT) ⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. ⁸And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ⁹Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Burdened – Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT) ²⁸Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Hard Financial Times – Hebrews 13:5 (NLT) ⁵Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Don't Feel Good or Pretty Enough – Read Psalm 139:14-18.

Jesus came to us in enemy territory, fought the battle on our behalf, and walked out of that grave the victor so that those of us who trust in Him might not live lives of FEAR but of FAITH.

Homework Assignment: What circumstance in your life right now tempts you to walk in fear? What are you going to do about this?