

Time To Go? (Part 2)

Purpose: to encourage us to walk in faith, remembering who God is, what He has done, and what He has told us to do.

In the first part of this chapter we saw that the children of Israel were at the edge of the Promised Land and God told them that it was time to go in to possess it. However, they decided to do something that was quite practical – they sent men to spy out the land before going in. What did they discover?

They discovered that everything that God had said about the land was true!

Num 13:26 - Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

Num 13:27 - Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit.

But there was a problem:

Num 13:28 - Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

Num 13:29 - The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

The problem was that there was opposition – there were enemies that they would have to battle with and overcome. What did they see?

- The people are strong
- The cities are fortified and large – not easy to gain access; able to hold out for a long time.
- The descendants of Anak, Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Canaanites - (the giants, very large people, all with a reputation of power and strength)

All of this was true – the people were strong and known for strength and fortitude and the cities were large. The real problem was not the size of the task, but rested in the faith of the spies.

Caleb responded with wisdom, based on faith:

Num 13:30 - Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

What did he do?

- He quieted the people
- He encouraged the people to move immediately
- He gave them confidence – "...for we are well able to overcome it."

The other men responded out of fear, based on practicality:

- **Num 13:31** - But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we."
- **Num 13:32** - And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a

land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature.

- **Num 13:33** - There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

What did they do?

They reasoned that their adversaries were stronger than them

They reported that the land was harsh (...devours its inhabitants...)

They gave them a faithless evaluation of the people:

"...the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature."

"...we saw the giants...)

"...we were like grasshoppers in our own sight...)

"..and so we were in their sight."

The real problem was that the things that they feared were real! If they had to overcome these enemies in their own strength, their evaluation would have been correct. But they were looking in the wrong direction! They were not looking to God, but to themselves.

They had forgotten a few things:

1. They had forgotten what God had told them:
 - a. He told them that the land was good
 - b. He promised to direct their way to the land
 - c. He promised to drive out their enemies and give them possession of the land
 - d. He told them to go
2. They had forgotten what God had already done (here are the main events):
 - a. He turned the rod of Moses into a serpent
 - b. He sent the 10 plagues that destroyed Egypt: blood, frogs, lice, flies, boils, death of livestock, hail, locust, darkness, death of firstborn.
 - c. He parted the Red Sea, and drowned the Egyptian army
 - d. He brought forth water from a rock
 - e. He gave them bread from heaven
 - f. He healed Miriam

After all of these things, they still did not trust God!

Heb 11:6 - But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

This was their biggest problem, and their biggest sin!

This is why God often does not tell us everything that He wants us to do. Because He knows that our faith is small.

Proverbs 24:10

*If you faint in the day of adversity,
Your strength is small.*

How is this an example to us?

- Just like them, there comes a time when we also must begin to do the things that God wants us to do. We must walk in faith!
- The tasks are never easy, and there will always be those who will fight against us.
- We must not respond out of fear, based on practicality, as they did.
- Instead we must remember three things:
 - Who God Is
 - What He has done for us in former times
 - What He has told us to do.

Let's learn from their example and make sure that we don't make the same mistakes as they did.