

## ASKING FOR A MOUNTAIN

(A sermon on Caleb) [slide](#)

- **History: Num. 13.6** Caleb, one of the spies
  - It should be noted in vs. 16 that Joshua was one of the 12 spies. [slide](#)
- Spies are sent – What they saw. **Vs 17 – 25** \*Remember vs. 22 (children of Anak)

**Num 13:17** Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains,  
18 "and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many;  
19 "whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds;  
20 "whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.  
21 ¶ So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath.  
22 And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)  
23 Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs.  
24 The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there.  
25 And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. [slide](#)

- Spies Report **vs. 26-33** \*vs. 33 Sons of Anak, giants

**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.  
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.  
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.  
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."  
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."

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."

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.

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."  
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#### **Vs.30** Caleb's plea slide

- Children of Israel's murmuring **Num. 14.2**  
slide
- Moses and Aaron's response **vs.5**  
slide
- Joshua and Caleb's response **vs. 6-10**  
slide
- The Lord's response **vs.11-12**  
slide
- Moses asks for a pardon for the people **vs.19**  
slide
- The Lord pardons Israel, but with a price. Slide
  1. The 10 spies with the evil report died of a plague slide
  2. The Amalekites and Canaanites smote the children of Israel and many died. slide
  3. God caused the Children of Israel to wander in the wilderness 1 year for each day the spies were in the land of Canaan. 40 years.  
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#### **Survived in the wilderness** slide

- This was his reward for a good report slide
- Only he and Joshua survived that was over 20 years old at the time of the unfaithfulness slide
- Never forgot what he had seen as a spy slide

#### **Takes part in the conquest. Josh 14.6-14**

**Josh 14:6 ¶** Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

7 "I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.

8 "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'

10 "And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

11 "As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.

12 "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel. **slide**

- He is 85 years old before he gets his inheritance **slide**
- Years have meant nothing to him **slide**
- He is ready for the hardest task **slide**

### **3 Great things about Caleb** **slide**

**#1. He had another or a different spirit.** Num. 14.24

This is said in reference to the report of the spies

His spirit differed from the 10

Note the contrasts **slide**

**CALEB: Loved god and cheerfully obeyed.** **slide**

**THE TEN: Yielded unwilling and reluctant obedience.** **slide**

**CALEB: Had faith and hope. Saw all that they saw. Said, we are able. It can be done.** **slide**

**THE TEN: Distrusted and feared. Said, we cannot. Left God out.**

**slide**

**CALEB: Active and zealous. Willing to toil and spend to gain the victory.** [slide](#)

**THE TEN: Want the rest without the journey. The reward without the labor. The victory without the war.** [slide](#)

**CALEB: Constant, persevering. No wavering or stopping.** [slide](#)

**THE TEN: Unstable. Hot then cold.** [slide](#)

## **#2. He wholly followed the Lord.** Josh. 14.9 [slide](#)

Followed by the right rule [slide](#)

Not guided by the feelings and notions of others. [slide](#)

Not led by the trend of the times but by the will of God.

Followed fully with all his heart. It was his business. The first and leading thing in his life.

He followed to the end of his life and fought till he gained the victory. [slide](#)

## **#3. He chose the difficult** [slide](#)

In Josh 14.12 he said Give me this mountain [slide](#) with its fenced cities and [slide](#) its giants who made others feel like grasshoppers. [slide](#)

Caleb was 85 years old. He could have said, I am ready to retire. Give me an easy place.

What do we usually hear today? What is the short cut? How can I get there without the work or effort? [slide](#)

## **Caleb's reward** [slide](#)

Not apparent at first [slide](#)

1. He stood with the minority. [slide](#)
2. The people were ready to stone him. [slide](#)
3. He must wander in the wilderness with the guilty. [slide](#)

He had the approval of God. [slide](#)

1. God called him "My servant" [slide](#)
2. The difference in him and the others during the forty years-they were waiting to die-he was waiting to enter the promised land. [slide](#)
3. His faithfulness never forgotten. Joshua remembers and the Holy Spirit records it for all time and eternity. [slide](#)

He gains the victory **slide**

1. Drives out the sons of Anak **slide**
2. Takes Hebron and its lands **slide**
3. Settles down to his reward **slide**

## **Conclusion**

Many applications can be made from this Old Testament character.  
I will leave these up to you and your personal lives.

- What spirit do we possess?
- What course do we pursue? **Grandfather and grandson**
- We must possess another spirit than the world.
- We must trust God, wholly follow the lord.
- Take the hard jobs and do them.

We see the rewards of being obedient  
We see the destruction of disobedience

If you are subject to the Gospel invitation in any way please make it know as we stand and sing.