

Old Testament Characters: Caleb
Numbers 13:26-30
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from Caleb's example

- Intro:
1. Have you ever heard of a "Debbie downer" or something similar.
 2. There are always those who believe a task cannot be accomplished, that the work involved is just too much.
 3. Today, we will look at Caleb's attitude and see things from his view point and what his attitude was about the task ahead of them.

I. Facts about Caleb

- A. He knew the will of God concerning the land.
 1. He knew that God wanted the Israelites to leave Egypt.
 2. He knew that God expected the people to trust (have faith) in Him.
- B. Caleb had faith.
 1. Caleb had faith that they could do what the Lord was asking of them.
 2. He had faith in God's knowledge, power & wisdom.
 3. He honored the authority of God.
- C. He was able to see the problem in the situation.
 1. He did not deny the battle that would await them, he did not deny the strength of the cities.
 2. He did however, know that they could overcome it all.
 3. Caleb was not afraid to go where God had commanded them to go, unlike the other 10 spies. Where they saw defeat, Caleb saw great victories.
- D. He was not swept away by the pleas of others to disobey.
 1. When others cried out for a "new captain" (**Num 14:4**)
 2. Caleb's reply was, no, let's do what God has said (**Num 14:6-9**)
- E. Caleb was optimistic
 1. The 10 spies were negative in their report (**Num 13:28-29**)
 2. Caleb however, was positive convinced of their certain victory (**Num 13:30**).

II. Lessons from Caleb's faith.

- A. Caleb had an "us" faith.
 1. We can do it and we can do it together.
 - a. Caleb said let "us", not me, but "let us go up". (Num 13:30)
 2. In Nehemiah 3, every man, had a place in the work of rebuilding the wall.
 3. **1 Cor 12:14-21** teaches a place for everyone in the Lord's work.
- B. Caleb wanted to act at once
 1. He wanted to act and he wanted to do so right away.
 2. To many good works and good intentions have died on the "let's wait" table.
 - a. Things become forgotten and folks lose interest when looking at things on this table.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. We can learn from Caleb's courage.

1. It takes courage to stand up for what the church can do and to do so when others are saying it's not possible.
2. No work is too great for those who have the will and desire to do it.
 - a. This isn't to say that some works can't be done in a better way.
 - b. There are many works that can be done, but need to be done in a different way. That isn't to say that the purpose of the work cannot be accomplished.

B. If we are negative, we will never accomplish anything.

1. Caleb was positive and believed in God's ability.
2. When we believe and trust God then we can accomplish the work, anything can be done. (BWM example)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Let us not be like the spies who were negative even while they held the fruit of the land in their hands! To many say we cannot do something or that a goal isn't being accomplished while at the same time the results are staring us in the face.
2. We need to have eyes that see positively and not negatively.
 - a. Which one do you think Satan wants you to have?
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9