



Introduction Numbers 13-14

Sunday, May 7, 2017

Pastor Don Denyes

Henry David Thoreau said, “most men lead lives of quiet desperation.” What he meant was that people often seek after things that cannot bring real value to life. While Thoreau’s writing is not based on Scripture, he does make a keen observation about humanity. What seems to be resignation to things that matter ends up being desperation to find something with any kind of meaning. Instead, we tend to seek things that will appease us in the short term. It is why entertainment is so sought after in our culture and why we find it unsatisfying. And it is why we are constantly drawn away from being faithful to the Lord.

Caleb was not one of those people. Caleb refused to give in to the prevailing notion that the people would be defeated. He refused to be a part of the masses who sought value in the comfort of what is familiar. Instead, he trusted the promises of God—that He would deliver their enemies into their hand and that His people would certainly take the promised land.

Caleb knew that the only thing that would satisfy was a relationship with God that was based on God’s promises to His people. And we can share that same confidence. Caleb knew God would make good on His promises because it was the same God who made good on His promises to deliver them from slavery in Egypt. It was the same God who maintained His presence with them throughout the desert and who kept His promise to feed and clothe the people.

Yet we have something even more certain than any of that: we have the fulfillment of all of God’s promises in Jesus Christ. Jesus’ death and resurrection proves God’s faithfulness to His promises to provide a substitutionary sacrifice so that our sins can be forgiven and a guarantee of our resurrection from the dead. Praise God for His great and precious promises!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Grapes or Giants”

Read Numbers 13:1-3; 13:17-14:12; 14:10-24

Three Common Temptations of Life

1. Tempted to reject God’s word
...because of peer pressure and intimidation

2. Tempted to resent God’s providence
...because of delays and disappointments

3. Tempted to retire from God’s work
...because of fatigue and weariness

Discuss

- 1) Describe a time when someone made you a promise, but didn't come through on it. What did you think of that? And how did it make you feel?
- 2) What is it about God that makes Him trustworthy? Why should we believe His promises?
- 3) What promises that God has made to His people? Try to name as many as you can.
- 4) Why might it be difficult for someone to believe those promises?
- 5) How do God's promises to us motivate us to obey Him in everyday life?