



Sunday, January 19, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 14-15

Regarding certain events from the Old Testament, the Apostle Paul said, “These things took place as examples for us...” (1 Cor. 10:6). I think that same principle applies to the story of Caleb. While there are certain people whose lives are written about in Scripture that are not worth emulating, Caleb is different. Caleb’s devotion to God and His purposes is relatively unparalleled in Scripture. To be sure, Caleb was not sinless (Rom. 3:23), but his zeal for God is instructive. His story not only reveals our own spiritual lethargy but gives us an example of what it means to live whole-heartedly for God.

Caleb spoke courageously among the returning spies, when they all lacked faith that God would deliver on His promises (Num. 13-14). He endured the great and terrible wilderness where he watched a generation of his peers die under the judgment of God. Then he entered the land and endured numerous military campaigns in his old age, finally taking one of the most difficult strongholds in the land—all because of his exemplary faith in the God who gives the victory.

Context

The context of Joshua 14-15 is Numbers 13-14. In that passage, the spies return with the report of giants in the land, and only Caleb and Joshua speak up that the people ought to go in and take what the LORD had promised to them. However, the disbelief of the rest of the spies caused that entire generation to die in the wilderness, but when He pronounced that very judgment, the LORD singled out Caleb and Joshua as the two from that generation who would survive and enter the promised land with the rest of the people.

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.)*

Read Numbers 13:25-33; 14:5-10; 14:20-30 and Joshua 14:6-15;
15:13-14

“With All Your Heart”

1. Tempted to Rebel against God’s Word
 - Challenge: Peer Pressure

 - Will I go with the flow or follow God?

2. Tempted to Resent God’s Providence
 - Challenge: God’s Delays

 - Will I be content or complain about life?

3. Tempted to Retire from God’s Service
 - Challenge: Old Age

Discuss

- 1) What does it mean for a person to follow God with their whole heart?

- 2) As adults, we can be tempted to think peer pressure is only something that children are susceptible to, but it was certainly a challenge for Caleb. What kinds of peer pressures do you face that could cause you to turn away from God?

- 3) Do you complain a lot? Why do you think that is?

- 4) J.I. Packer helpfully describes God's providence this way: "God is completely in charge of His world... The doctrine of providence teaches Christians that they are never in the grip of blind forces (fortune, chance, luck, fate); all that happens to them is divinely planned, and each event comes as a new summons to trust, obey, and rejoice, knowing that all is for one's spiritual and eternal good." (*Concise Theology*, 54-56).
How does this doctrine impact your level of contentment with the circumstances of your life?

- 5) What do you need to repent of in order to be whole-hearted in your commitment to God and His purposes?