

Dealing with Giants Numbers 13:1-14:45

There are a lot of big nasty “bullies” in the world. As Christians have we concluded that it is easier to pay the bully rather than stand up to him? We like to hear the messages of God’s Promised Land flowing with milk and honey; it’s true, God wants to bless His people and He is faithful to His word. However, milk and honey doesn’t come without stinky cows and stinging bees. We don’t like that part, we want a lottery Christianity; a big payday with little cost or sacrifice to us, and it doesn’t work that way. Actually, if we are to be disciples of Christ, it is the exact opposite; we need to take up our cross daily. In order to possess the promises of God, we will need to deal with some giants. How we deal with our giant problems will determine how we receive God’s promises.

A Giant Prize- remembering God’s promise, dwelling on His faithfulness helps get us through the deserts. God wants us to know how good His promises are, how much bigger than we can imagine so He gives a sample v.23-25. God’s promises never fail nor do they change as often as we think they do. A mistake we make does not negate the promise. There may be consequences, but God always comes through. Has He given you dreams and aspirations that you feel you no longer qualify for? He wants to revive and rekindle those dreams. The spies went in with the dream of God’s promised land and came out with the proof. His plans are ‘better than we thought’ plans. **What is the Canaan land opportunity (promise) that God is placing before you today, individually and corporately?** Something that is bigger than you, that requires more than what you have to give it, something that will require a leap of faith in God.

A Giant Problem- they started with a positive report, they brought an accurate report. Sometimes we think ignoring a problem will make it go away. We need to face it head on and deal with it. We get our eyes off God and stuck on the problem until it becomes bigger than the promise. Fear is the darkroom where the devil takes you to develop your negatives. **What is standing in the way of our moving forward into God’s promise?** Is there a sin or bad habit that needs to be conquered? Is there a good habit that needs to be developed? Is there a new area of ministry to be stepped into? God’s promises must be fulfilled His way not ours; any thing else will only bring failure and frustration. We can’t become fearful of the roadblock; we can’t base our conclusions on what we see or feel. V. 28-33. We are not who we think we are, we are not who others think we are, but we tend to be who we think people think we are. We have to make sure our conclusions are right. We can’t focus on the bad report, or hesitate to obey God. **1 Peter 4:4; 2 Tim.3:12; Mark 10:29-30.** Don’t be fearful of what it will cost, there is no winning without warring, no opportunity without opposition and no victory without vigilance. Our perspective must be to do exactly what God has called us to do, to stand on the promises rather than sit on the perils. We mustn’t abandon all that we have read or learned from God’s word at the first sign of trouble or the first test of our faith. We need to remember the word of the Lord **Lam. 3:21.** We need to look past the problem and back to the promise and say **‘but God...’**

A Giant Panic-. V.1-9.A bad report influenced 3 million people. When we panic we often look for someone to blame. If we ignore God's will we'll ignore God's man, even blame him when we're mad at God. In the face of opposition, Aaron and Moses humbled themselves before God and the assembly. We need to put our trust in God, remember the promise and remember that He will follow through. Regardless of the size of the giants the odds are in our favour because of the God we serve; it's the God factor. We may not know how we'll get through the situation but we will get through, with God. Caleb had the opportunity to follow the crowd and murmur and complain, but he chose to trust God. Will you take the Caleb option in regards to your Canaan opposition? Will you say, "But God." Will you remind yourself of God's character? Will you defend it to others? If so, God will follow through and be faithful.

What is God's promise to you? Will you trust Him in it?

Will you rise up and not shrink back? What are the oppositions? Don't forget the 'but God' factor and hinge it on the character of God.

Will you trust Him to be whatever He needs to be for you? It will require faith on your part. Faith doesn't see where it you'll land; it just trusts God to guide you safely. That's the true opportunity of Canaan. If we don't take those leaps of faith, God will leap over our generation and give those opportunities to the next. I don't want to miss out on what God has in store, do you? Let's walk together into the future God has planned for us.