

Take That Mountain

Joshua 14:1-15

Introduction:

- As we study this passage, I want us to consider the exciting story here regarding Caleb, but also make a personal application for us, and later I'll make a specific application for our church
- The message today will be a little different than usual. I want to reveal my vision for our church and what I believe the Lord wants us to do. I will go over that towards the end of my message, so just sit tight! The message this morning is entitled, Take That Mountain. This will be an ongoing theme for our church starting in 2018.
- Background:
 - (Jos 14:1-2) The distribution of the land on the western side of the Jordan river.
 - (Jos 14:3-5) An explanation of the nine and one-half tribes who received their inheritance on the west side of the Jordan.
 - Although there were twelve sons of Jacob (Israel), Levi would not receive territory as the priestly tribe. Joseph divided into two tribes (Manasseh and Ephraim) making the number 12 again.
 - (Jos 14:6-9) Caleb remembers Moses' promise.

I. **CALEB'S INHERITANCE- V. 6-9**

- a. Caleb was one of the only two spies who came back from Canaan with a good report way back in Numbers 13:26-33
- b. As these spies toured the land, they saw some of the people and the produce of the land. This spectacular produce included clusters of grapes so big, they had to be carried between two men on a pole. There was a land flowing with milk and honey
- c. But there were also enemies in the land to be conquered.

- d. Joshua and Caleb were the only two who believed God. They were in the minority! Don't be afraid to be in the minority, marginalized, disregarded, ostracized by friends or even family when you decide to serve God!
- e. God judged Israel by having them wander in the wilderness for 40 years, and that entire adult generation, except for Joshua and Caleb, died without entering into the Promised Land.
- f. V. 6- Now here we are 45 years later, and here comes Caleb, still trusting God, ready to claim his inheritance promised many years ago!

II. **CALEB SEIZES GOD'S PROMISE- V. 12-14**

- a. Caleb decided to take his mountain!
- b. This picture is for the Christian- the unbeliever needs to trust in what Christ already did on Mt. Calvary! Salvation is grace-centered, and Christ-centered!
- c. **The dynamic of true living faith; possessing your possessions!**
 - i. What does it mean to seize or take hold of God's promises?
 - ii. This was a promised inheritance- yet Caleb had to take it!
 - iii. There are things we pray and believe God for, then there is the time for taking!
 - iv. Seeming paradox- In Shakespeare's "Hamlet," the title character states "I must be cruel to be kind." On the surface, once again, this statement does not seem to make much sense. How can an individual convey kindness through evil? In this case, Hamlet is speaking about how he plans to slay Claudius in order to avenge his father's death. His mother is now married to Claudius, so, of course, this will be a tragedy for her. However, he does not want his mother to be the lover of his father's murderer (unbeknownst to her) any longer, so he believes the murder will be for her own good.
 - v. It was still God's grace, not the efforts of the Israelites, that provided the land. It was the PROMISED Land.
 - vi. The law of appropriation- God gives, but we must take

- vii. Appropriation means to make one's own
- viii. Possessing our possessions- He gives us the title-deed, the motive-power, the strength, the gladness, and then says, "Enter and possess."
- ix. Illustr- You give your son teachers and schools--there your power stops. He has the possibility or the opportunity, but he must possess his possessions! You seat your daughter at the piano, but for musical power, culture, achievement--she must enter into and possess these!
- i. Faith and works should travel side by side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again -- until they can scarcely distinguish which is the one and which is the other.
- ii. Similar to Jonathan in I Samuel 14:6- He took initiative!
- d. The obstacles that test our faith- they are ever-present aren't they?
 - i. I Cor. 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.
 - ii. Old age- Caleb was 85! Almost as old as Bro. Bill! Young and elderly- early years and golden years!
 - iii. Feel inadequate?
 - iv. Enemies to fight- Caleb wants the fight. He could have asked for an easy place, but he knows that these foes must be faced and figures that he may as well be the one to do it. He doesn't leave the work to someone else
 - v. Caleb declared to Joshua that he desired the hill country where the giants (Anakim) had been seen. He was confident that with the power of God he would be able to take this tough territory.
- e. Each of us has a mountain to climb, spiritually speaking. The children of God always face obstacles in their lives, but with His strength we can overcome our mountains no matter how rugged the terrain.
- f. Besetting sins, discouragement, service, faithfulness- let's trust God!

III. CALEB WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD- V. 14

- a. Total obedience- not selfishness or pride
- b. This was Caleb's secret
- c. What if we all had the heart of Caleb?

Conclusion:

- His confidence never ceased, his strength never failed, and he never stopped following the Lord!
- Eighty-year-old Yuichiro Muiira set the record for being the oldest man to climb Mount Everest back in 2013. But that's not all: he made the climb four years after suffering a serious skiing accident, and was forced to receive surgery.
- Everest is 29,035 feet; the wind can blow over 200 mph; The temperature can be -80F
- He is planning to climb again at age 90! What mountain will you take in this new year?