

Series: Life of Moses

MOSES SENT THEM TO SPY OUT THE LAND NUMBERS 13

Text: Numbers 13:17

Numbers 13:17

¹⁷ *And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:*

Introduction:

The most harmful rebellion of the Israelites in their journey from Egypt to Canaan was the rebellion of the spies who doubted God and spoke against entering the land that they had just searched out.

Note:

1. THE SPIES CHOSEN (VS. 1-16)

Note:

The identity of the spies

The spies represented each tribe except the Levites. Their place was taken by giving Joseph two tribes – Manasseh and Ephraim.

- These men were to be leaders.

Numbers 13:2-3

*² Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, **every one a ruler among them**. ³ And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.*

- These spies had proven themselves as a leader.

This certainly reminds us that position is not synonymous with faith.

Just because someone has a high position in life doesn't mean he is a good person.

With position come responsibility, and some people are only interested in the position and not the responsibility and corrupt their position by their sinful, selfish attitude.

It is also interesting to me that the only names of the spies that were that are well known today is Caleb and Joshua.

The reason that these men are known is because these men were men of faith.

Note not only “The Spies Chosen” but also:

2. THE SPIES COMMISSION (vs. 17-20)

Numbers 13:17-20

¹⁷ And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain: ¹⁸ And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; ¹⁹ And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; ²⁰ And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.

Moses gave the spies some important instructions to make their investigation of the land productive.

Note:

A. Their Instructions About the Path (vs. 17)

Numbers 13:17

¹⁷ *And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:*

- Their Destination – the land of Canaan
- Their Directions – get you up this way southward and go up into the mountain.

B. Their Instructions About the People (vs. 18)

Numbers 13:18

¹⁸ *And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;*

Moses instructed them to see

- Their Power
- Their Population

C. Their Instructions About their Products (vs. 20)

Numbers 13:20

²⁰ And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.

Note not only the Spies Chosen, and Commissioned, but also:

3. THE SPIES CONDUCT (VS. 21-25)

Numbers 13:21-25

²¹ So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

²² And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³ And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. ²⁴ The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. ²⁵ And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

A. The Extent of their Investigation – forty days

B. The Evidence of their Investigation – grapes

Note not only the Spies Chosen, Commissioned, and Conduct, but also:

4. THE SPIES COMPLAINT (VS. 26-29)

Numbers 13:26-29

²⁶ And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it. ²⁸ Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

Typical process of presenting bad news

They speak of the good and then insert the nevertheless.

Instead of remembering the promises of God they reflected on the problems and perceived obstacles.

Note the ten spies report:

- Strong people
- Walled Cities
- The Giants

In their mind the task was an impossibility.

Note not only the Spies Chosen, Commissioned, Conduct, and Complaint but lastly:

5. THE SPIES CONFLICT (VS. 30-33)

Numbers 13:30-33

³⁰ And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. ³¹ But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. ³² And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. ³³ And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and

we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Note:

A. The Speaker – Caleb

B. The Stilling

Keep in mind the large number of people in this group.

C. The Substance

- Stoutness – let us go up at once
- Sureness – we are well able

Close:

It only takes a few to discourage a large group

Looking at our surroundings often results in our doubting or forgetting Gods abilities.