

GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN

JOSHUA 14:1-3

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Introduction:

J. Hudson Taylor was the founder of the China Inland Mission. One day a man, attempting to find out the difficulties of missionary work, asked Hudson Taylor, what is the hardest mission in the world? Without any hesitation whatsoever, Hudson Taylor replied, "The hardest mission in the world is submission to God."

In our text, we see a senior saint, named Caleb, who was submitted to God, a man who was devoted to the Lord.

While they were dividing the land, there is an interruption, there is a man who says to Joshua, 45 years ago, I was promised where I walked spying out the land, that it would be mine. Therefore, see that mountain over there, give me that mountain.

Let look at that man Caleb and look into his life and see what it is about him that he was able to make that request.

1-NOTICE THAT CALEB WAS A FAVORED MAN:

Numbers 14:24A-But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him

Caleb had another spirit-not only a bold, generous courageous, noble, and heroic spirit; but the Spirit and influence of the God of heaven thus raised him above human inquietudes and earthly fears.

As we look at the life of Caleb, we see the difference between his and the others, it was the Spirit of God.

What God chooses, He cleanses. What God cleanses, He molds. What God molds, He fills. What God fills, He uses. - J. S. Baxter

This morning if you are saved, you have his Spirit, you are favored by God. If it wasn't for the grace of God, it is no telling what you would be doing.

2-NOTICE THAT CALEB WAS A FAITHFUL MAN:

Numbers 13:30 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.

ILLUSTRATION: The story is told of a man who rode in his car as it was being towed to be repaired. When they arrived at the repair shop, the tow truck driver told him, "I didn't think I was going to make it up that big hill." The man replied, "I didn't either. That's why I kept the brakes on so we wouldn't roll backwards."

CALEB DIDN'T PUT THE BRAKES ON HIS FAITH

Caleb wasn't looking at the giants like the people were doing but according to 14:8, he had his eyes upon Lord.

Numbers 14:8

⁸If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Someone has said, little faith in a strong plank will get you across the stream, but a strong faith in a rotten plank will get you into the stream. (Caleb faith was in the strength of the almighty God)

ILLUSTRATION:

D. L. Moody was saved at the age of 19. D. L. Moody heard an evangelist by the name of Henry Varley say, "The world has yet to see what God can do in and through and with and for a man wholly committed to him.

D.L. Moody said, "By God's grace I will be that man!" He was an uncultured, uneducated, untrained shoe

salesman but God used him to move 2 continents for Christ.

Why? He was committed!

3-NOTICE THAT CALEB WAS A FEARLESS MAN:

Numbers 14:9

⁹ Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.

Why was he fearless, Because he was looking from Heaven's viewpoint.

The people were saying, we look like grasshoppers in the sight of the giants, and Caleb was saying the giants are grasshoppers.

He was in the minority, he had been out voted 10-2, but he still had the courage to stand for what was right.

Caleb said about the enemy, they are "bread for us."

4-NOTICE THAT CALEB WAS A FOLLOWING MAN:

Numbers 14:24

²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him,

and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

God had all of Caleb that there was! Note the repeated phrase "Fully followed the Lord." This is said about Caleb 6 times in the Old Testament.

5-NOTICE THAT CALEB WAS A FRUITFUL MAN:

Numbers 14:37-38

³⁷ Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. ³⁸ But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of the men that went to search the land, lived *still*.

Caleb and Joshua were the only two (out of thousands of men) who survived the forty years of wilderness wanderings and entered the promised land (Num 32:10-13).

Their brethren did not enter Canaan.

Hebrews 3:17

¹⁷ But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

6-NOTICE THAT CALEB WAS A FIGHTING MAN:

Joshua 14:12

¹² Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims

were there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fenced: if so be the LORD *will be* with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

Someone has said, Caleb was old but he was bold. Even though he was 85, he wanted another Challenge.

Caleb chooses the most rugged area, which was full of giants.

This was where Abraham was buried, where he had built his altars.

Sometime the hardest places are the places where God is.

ILLUSTRATION:

President Eisenhower told this tale, "An old farmer had a cow that we wanted to buy. We went over to visit him and asked about the cow's pedigree. The old farmer didn't know what 'pedigree' meant, so he asked him about the cow's butterfat production. He told us that he didn't have any idea. Finally, he asked him if he knew how many pounds of milk the cow produced each year. The farmer shook his head and said, 'I don't know, but she's an honest old cow, and she'll give you all the milk she has!'"

God's people need to be like that old cow. We need to give everything we have for Him

At the age of 85, Caleb drove out the enemy and possessed the Mountain. We need to do the same

CLOSE:

I read the story that a preacher told about coon hunting. It seems that he prided himself on getting a treed coon down with a single shot from a 22. His friend decided to play a trick and adjusted the sights so it would shoot a little low.

One night they were out hunting and pretty soon the dogs took off. They ran and ran until they gave the signal that a coon had been treed. The man took the gun and set the sights on that old coon. When he shot, nothing happened. He couldn't believe that he had missed. He shot again, and hit the branch the coon was sitting on. He shot a couple more times and missed each time. He simply couldn't believe it.

About that time, as his friend told the story, that coon got real nervous and started running down the tree. All the time the dogs are barking. It ran across the ground toward his friend and ran right up his legs and perched himself on his head. He said, "Don't move. I'll get him!" His friend seeing the 22 aiming right at his head began to scream, "Aim higher! Aim higher!"

Now I'm not sure if that entire story is true, but I do

think that we miss out on a lot of God's blessings because we aim too low.

Like one fellow said, "Aim at nothing and you'll hit it every time."

CALEB WAS A SENIOR SAINT WHO AIMED HIGH