

On our journey through the wilderness...

Where are we going?

What will it take to get there?

What will God need to develop in us along the way?

Most of the spies didn't get it. God and His promises were right there. All they saw was their circumstances.

What did God develop in you today? As you are walking with God,

consider:

- ✓ God has made promises. Do you get it?
- ✓ God is faithful. Do you get it?
- ✓ God is generous. Do you get it?
- ✓ God is powerful. Do you get it?

Should our lives be characterized by walking by faith or walking by sight?

Series: The Life and Times of Moses
Text: Numbers 13

Title: Nevertheless

Topic: Sight versus faith

Review:

Last lesson we saw:

- ✓ Fault-finding against Moses by Aaron and Miriam
- ✓ God called a meeting to teach of the necessity of the mediator.
- ✓ God punished Miriam and not Aaron.
- ✓ Moses interceded for Aaron and Miriam.

Lesson:

1. Verse 1-16: God _____ the land.

Verses 4-14 have familiar tribal names...but all of the heads of those tribes are different than the leaders of these same tribes in chapters 1, 2, 7, & 10. Four times the *heads* or *leaders* or the *ones in command* were declared and were always the same. Why are different men now in the leadership position?

Moses renames Hoshea, "desire for salvation" to Joshua, "the Lord is salvation".

God's promises:

- God told Moses at the burning bush (Ex. 3:8) that He would give them the land.
- Moses told the people God would give them the land and gave a description of its goodness (Ex. 13:5 & 11).
- Here in Numbers 13:2 they are to spy out the land . . . "which I am going to give to the children of Israel."

So as the spies look at the land, no matter what they see, the very words should be ringing in their ears, "This is the land I am giving you."



How about us: We are called to do the same thing. We are to act on God's promises. Not to act on God's promises is _____.

2. Verse 17-22: God is _____ (gotta dig deeper for this).

We get the point that God is faithful from the reference to the city of Hebron. The graves of Sarah and Abraham are there. God has been faithful. They forgot....

Do we ever do that? Do we forget how faithful God has been?

- Has God been faithful in the hard times of your life?
- Has God been faithful when you didn't deserve it?
- Has God ever left you?

A side issue that is not a side issue:

Zoan was a city in NE Egypt that the Israelites would have known quite well. Zoan is mentioned in Isaiah 19:11, 13. Also in Ezekiel 30:14. It is also known as Ramesses. It was torn down in the 12th century BC to build Tanis, about 12 miles to the north.

Genesis 47:11: *So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Ramesses, as Pharaoh directed.* (about 430 years before our text.)

Exodus 1 background...

Psalms 78 is a great read for this week on your own. It is one of the complaint Psalms mentioned a couple of weeks ago. It is like the "Cliff Notes" version of what we are studying about all these people went through. It mentions the region of Zoan twice.

So the Israelites knew about Zoan and Moses gives reference here to the fact that Hebron predates it.

3. Verses 23-27: God is _____.

The land was wonderful and fruitful and ...who did all that? The report just seems sort of like a scientific fact...

4. Verses 28-33: God is _____.

Ten of the 12 reported that the task was too great. The inhabitants could not be defeated.

Nevertheless means despite all of that.

- *Despite God's faithful promise, the people who dwell in the land are strong.*
- *Despite God's faithful promise, the cities are fortified and very large.*
- *Despite God's faithful promise, we saw the descendants of Anak.*
- *Despite God's faithful promise, all the land is taken up, there are no vacancies.*

Moses says nothing about God's power in the closing words of this chapter. The spies magnified the problems, and they minimized or omitted the power of God. The people should have _____ the impossibility of their power to get the job done, and at the same time _____ the power of God to overcome all. God had promised them the land. End of story.

Things to ponder:

- Caleb objects in 30. It must have taken great courage to do that.
- The other spies respond to Caleb with a bad report. Their lack-of-faith response was filled with a combination of truth, lies, and exaggeration.
- Lack of faith can present itself as being "factual" or "practical" or "down to earth".
- 10 men see one thing, 2 men see something different...in the same place.

Most of the spies just didn't get it. God and His Providence was right there. All they could _____ was their circumstances.