

Lesson 2. Caleb: Living with the Wait.

Sunday's Lesson

Find the lies in the following statements:

27 Then they told him, and said: “*We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.*”

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “*We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.*” 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “*The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.*”

The pink box at the bottom of Sunday's lesson asks: “Why is it so easy to live by sight and not by faith?”

- Is there a difference?? Did the 10 unfaithful spies not experience slavery & delivery from it? Did they not see Pharaoh's armies swallowed in the Red Sea? Did they not see the pillar of cloud/fire every day?? Did they not eat the manna sent from heaven?? Did they not see water spring from the rock in the desert?? Did they not see the Earth swallow up the rebels Korah, Dathan, & Abiram??
- How did Joshua & Caleb see the land of Canaan differently than the other 10??

Monday's Lesson

A Japanese proverb states: “The nail that sticks out gets hammered down.”

Did Caleb risk getting literally “hammered down”? [Num. 14:10.]

How did God treat the rebellious?? Did he execute punishment on them, [Num. 14:36,37] or did He just give them what they wanted? [Num. 14:28-33]

- 1 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “***If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?***”
- The Lord sent fire from his presence and consumed the men who had brought the evil report, which made all the congregation murmur against Moses and against the Lord. ***But Caleb and Joshua lived before the Lord,*** and before the people, which evidenced to them that their report was correct. {1SP 294.2}
- As the people listened to this report, they gave vent to their disappointment with bitter reproaches and wailing. They did not wait, and reflect, and reason, that God, who had brought them out thus far, would certainly give them the land. But they yielded to discouragement at once. They limited the power of the Holy One, and trusted not in God, who had hitherto led them. They reproached Moses, and murmuringly said to one another, This, then, is the end of all our hopes. This is the land that we have been traveling from Egypt to obtain. Caleb and Joshua sought to obtain a hearing; but the people were so excited that they could not command themselves to listen to these

two men. After they were calmed a little, Caleb ventured to speak. He said to the people, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." {1SP 289.1}

Tuesday's lesson

What does it mean to "claim" God's promises? Are we to test God? Prove him? Is this part of the "reasoning" process? How does this relate to "faith"? Does God ever risk being misunderstood, telling us to claim His promises?

Think about the results, both with the Israelites & with the remaining Canaanites, of an 85 y/o man defeating the 3 sons of Anak, the giant.

From the beginning God has been working by His Holy Spirit through human instrumentalities for the accomplishment of His purpose in behalf of the fallen race.... The same power that sustained the patriarchs, that gave Caleb and Joshua faith and courage, and that made the work of the apostolic church effective, has upheld God's faithful children in every succeeding age. {FLB 52.5}. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He [Jesus] could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. {FLB 52.6}. The Holy Spirit is an effective helper in restoring the image of God in the human soul. {FLB 52.7}

Wednesday's lesson

What is significant about Caleb giving his daughter to the victor of a particular battle? What does it tell us that the victor turns out to be his nephew?

Have you even had a mentor? How has this person changed your life? Are you a mentor to someone else? Are you changing his/her life for the better?

Thursday's lesson

The lesson author seems surprised that Caleb gave his daughter land with 2 springs after she asked for it. Does this surprise you? Any other observations?

Friday's lesson

Discussion question #1. "As Christians we are constantly bombarded with 'facts' that are interpreted in ways that contradict our faith. Notice the key word is *interpreted*. What are ways we can confront these challenges without making fools of ourselves and yet at the same time maintain our integrity?"

What are some of the "facts" that contradict our faith? Is it really that much of a problem to be thought of as a "fool"? Wasn't Christ perceived that way?

