

Quarter Four: Lessons of Faith from Joshua

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Lesson 8—Giants of Faith: Joshua and Caleb

Sunday: Faithfulness

November 16, 2025

- **Last Week:** “Ultimate Loyalty: Worship in a War Zone”
 - Joshua 5:1 – 7; 8:30 – 35; 18:1 – 2
 - Spiritual Renewal in the midst of war
 - Before Jericho: circumcision of the 2nd generation & celebration of Passover
 - After Ai: Renewal of the covenant
- **This Week:** “Giants of Faith: Joshua & Caleb”
 - Joshua 14, 15 & 19
 - Transitioned to 2nd half of book of Joshua
 - Chapters 1 – 12 = Conquering the land
 - Chapters 13 – 24 = Dividing the inheritance
 - Next lesson (#9) focuses on division of inheritance
 - This lesson: focus on life of Joshua & Caleb
 - Giants of faith
 - Leaders in God’s work
 - Spiritual leadership
 - Negative examples in the world today?
 - Leaders & politicians
 - Sometimes untruthful, unfaithful, corrupt, inept
 - Church leaders (pastors, elders, those on TV)
 - Sometimes arrogant, boastful, depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits & doctrines of devils (1 Tim 4:1)
 - Parents
 - Sometimes fail at always combining love & justice; kindness & discipline
 - Disciplined in anger?
 - Coddled without consequences?
 - Positive examples needed: “The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.” (Education, p. 57)
 - Greatest want is men like Caleb & Joshua = Biblical examples of greatness

Memory Text: “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” (Hebrews 13:7, ESV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Faithfulness (Jill)
 - Josh 14:6, 14 – Caleb’s faith as 1 of 2 spies sent out 45 years before; willingness to speak & stand for God against peer pressure & opposition
- 2. **Monday:** Give Me This Hill Country (John D)
 - Josh 14:6 – 14 – Caleb’s dedication to follow God fully; request for very land the 10 spies declared unconquerable before; wanted unconquered land as his inheritance
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Power of Example (John L)
 - Josh 15:16 – 19 – younger men inspired by the lives of Caleb & Joshua, take up the banner of faith & courage; Othniel married Caleb’s daughter & became a judge & warrior in Israel
- 4. **Wednesday:** Humble Hero (Ryan J)
 - Josh 19:49 – 51 – Joshua’s inheritance given last (Caleb’s given first, after 2 ½ tribes); sign of Joshua’s humility & greatness; requested land near the sanctuary
- 5. **Thursday:** Changed by Contemplation (James)
 - Various Scriptures – looking at Jesus, instead of earthly men of faith

Sunday: Faithfulness

Joshua **14:6, 14**; Num 13:6, 30 – 32; (Num 14:6 – 10, 21 – 25; Num 26:65; Num **32:12**);

- Caleb – from the tribe of Judah
 - Num 13:6 – “from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh;”
 - One of the 12 spies sent out 45 years before to spy out the land of Canaan
 - Conquest of Canaan = + / - 7 years
 - 38 years from spying out of land to crossing Jordan into Promised Land
 - Deut 2:14
 - Caleb is now 85 – asking for an unconquered inheritance
 - Could have settled on conquered property & rested
 - Instead, asked for same property with giants in it that he spied out 45 years ago
 - Joshua 14:7 – “I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out of the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.”
 - Joshua 14:11 – “As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.”
 - Caleb’s name is derived from Heb root meaning “dog”
 - Used in the OT in a negative context (not in reference to Caleb)

- However, “in extra-biblical letters & hymns, this word is used to express a servant’s courage, tenacity, & faithfulness to his/her master. In this respect, Caleb was faithful to his name, demonstrating throughout his life unwavering loyalty to his Lord.” (from lesson)

Lessons from Caleb’s life story

- **1. Don’t give into peer pressure (Num 13)**
 - **Caleb spoke up** – against the negative report
 - Moses sent the 12 spies out
 - Caleb was spy from tribe of Judah (Vs 6)
 - Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim (Vs 8)
 - Caleb = 40 years old then
 - Gone on spy mission for 40 days
 - 10 spies brought back discouraging report
 - Generated fear that led to despair & insurrection amongst the people
 - Spies report:
 - Land flows with milk & honey
 - Vs 28 - People who dwell in land are very strong
 - Cities are fortified & very large
 - Vs 29 - Heathen nations dwelling there:
 - Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Canaanites
 - Easy to give into peer pressure
 - 10 spies gave discouraging report
 - *People pleasing – difficult to stand against others
 - **Caleb spoke up** – against the negative report
 - Against peer pressure
 - Do we know the names of the other 10 spies?
 - Shammua, Shaphat, Igal, Palti, Gaddiel, Gaddi, Ammiel, Sethur, Nahbi, Geuel
 - Vs 30a – “Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, ...”
 - He spoke up – even when it went against the grain
 - Or popular opinion
 - Isa 63:3 – “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me.”
 - Christ walked alone
 - Be able to stand alone; walk alone; stand up against others
- **2. Speak Faith (Num 13)**
 - **Caleb spoke faith** – in the midst of discouraging circumstances
 - Vs 30 – “Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses & said, ‘Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.’”
 - Caleb didn’t just stand against peer pressure: he spoke faith

- *Self-doubt – esp when others are against you
 - Who am I to speak?
 - How would I make a difference?
- 2 Cor 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
 - The giants looked large
 - The cities impregnable
 - The land unattainable
 - Caleb didn’t look at the physical: he looked by faith
 - *Don’t walk by how you feel – walk by faith
- Prov 18:21 – “Death & life are in the power of the tongue...”
 - Words matter
 - Speak faith
- 10 spies’ response to Caleb’s faith:
 - They shared more discouragement with the people
 - Vs 31 – we are not able to go up against the people; they are stronger than us
 - Vs 32 – there are giants in the land
 - Bible says – they gave a bad report
 - Vs 33 – we were like grasshoppers compared to the giants of Anak (very inheritance Caleb sought later in Joshua 14)
- Power of words (Num 14)
 - Vs 1 – people cried all night
 - Vs 2 – people complained against Moses & Aaron – if only we had died in Egypt or in the Wilderness!
 - Vs 4 – “let us select a leader & return to Egypt”
- **3. Believe in what God can do (Num 14)**
 - **Caleb spoke encouragement:** against all odds
 - Vs 6 – Joshua & Caleb tore their clothes
 - Vs 7 – they encouraged the children of Israel: the land is a good land
 - Vs 8 – “If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey.”
 - Vs 9 – “Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.”
 - Speaking encouragement:
 - Easy when others are encouraged
 - Difficult when everyone is discouraged & ready to quit – or rebel
 - Eph 4:29, NLT – “...Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”
 - Rom 1:12 – “that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”
 - 1 Thess 5:11 – “Therefore comfort each other and **edify** one another, just as you also are doing.”
 - Edify = Gk, lit, “build up”
 - Sometimes, build up in times of ease or in times of discouragement

- **4. Follow God fully** (Num 14 & 32)
 - **Caleb followed God:** regardless of anything
 - Num 14:10 – “And all the congregation said to stone them with stones.”
 - Did that deter Caleb?
 - Judgment of God on those in the rebellion
 - Num 14:23, 24 – “they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. (24) But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”
 - The very land Caleb spied out became his inheritance
 - Caleb “followed Me fully”
 - Num 32:11, 12 – “‘Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they have not wholly followed Me. (12) except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.’”
 - Men 20 years & above all perished in the wilderness
 - They got their wish: asked to die in Egypt or the wilderness
 - Caleb “wholly followed the Lord”
 - Joshua 24:15 – choose today: will you serve the Lord?
 - Not gods of your fathers - tradition
 - Nor gods in whose land you dwell – peer pressure
- **Additional lessons:**
 - Work – don’t sit back and expect everything handed to you
 - Josh 14 – Caleb asked for the inheritance, knowing he’d still have to drive out the Canaanites there
 - Pass faith onto next generation
 - Othniel who married Caleb’s daughter, learned from Caleb
 - Keep faith until the end
 - Caleb was older, yet still followed God

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