

## 2 out of 12 - March 30, 2022

Pastor Doug's sermon titled "God's Grasshoppers" on Sunday was an inspiring analogy. The main portion of scripture came from Numbers 13:17-33. Moses sent one man from each tribe to spy the promised land for 40 days. They were to find out several things. Here is Numbers 13:17-20 from the Message:

17-20 When Moses sent them off to scout out Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and then into the hill country. Look the land over, see what it is like. Assess the people: Are they strong or weak? Are there few or many? Observe the land: Is it pleasant or harsh? Describe the towns where they live: Are they open camps or fortified with walls? And the soil: Is it fertile or barren? Are there forests? And try to bring back a sample of the produce that grows there—this is the season for the first ripe grapes."

If you read the verses before this passage, you will see that among the twelve was one man of faith. In verse 16 Moses gave Hoshea the son of Nun a new name, Joshua, which means God saves. A name with a promise. A foreshadowing of Jesus.

This was quite the assignment for men who had spent decades in the desert following Moses. Could you imagine how they longed to see this promised land? They dreamt about it as they wandered, ready to set down roots and build homes for their families. The mission the spies were sent on was no small task! This land was going to be theirs, after all.

Here is the report they gave to Moses in front of the people:

27-29 "We went to the land to which you sent us and, oh! It does flow with milk and honey! Just look at this fruit! The only thing is that the people who live there are fierce, their cities are huge and well fortified. Worse yet, we saw descendants of the giant Anak. Amalekites are spread out in the Negev; Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites hold the hill country; and the Canaanites are established on the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan."

They were completely overwhelmed. Their new homeland was dangling in front of them, unattainable. How on earth could they overcome such circumstances?

But then "That one guy every congregation has," as Pastor Doug said, spoke up.

30 Caleb interrupted, called for silence before Moses and said, "Let's go up and take the land—now. We can do it."

I know you heard the sermon. Keep reading!

31-33 But the others said, “We can’t attack those people; they’re way stronger than we are.” They spread scary rumors among the People of Israel. They said, “We scouted out the land from one end to the other—it’s a land that swallows people whole. Everybody we saw was huge. Why, we even saw the Nephilim giants (the Anak giants come from the Nephilim). Alongside them we felt like grasshoppers. And they looked down on us as if we were grasshoppers.”

We, believers, are on the cusp of the coming rain. An outpouring of the Spirit of God is on the way and the dry, hard, brokenness of our lives will become soft and fruitful. But alongside the promise of revival is opposition. And most of that opposition comes from within ourselves. It is time to choose who we will believe. Will we be one of the ten, or one of the two, Caleb and Joshua?

Times are difficult and will become more and more so. Whose opinion are we choosing to believe? Will we allow ourselves and our lack of relationship with God to hold us back from His promises? To clarify, we are in a spiritual battle. Here is Ephesians 6:12 (Voice)

12 We’re not waging war against enemies of flesh and blood alone. No, this fight is against tyrants, against authorities, against supernatural powers and demon princes that slither in the darkness of this world, and against wicked spiritual armies that lurk about in heavenly places.

Remember, we cannot go into battle alone. We need each other in the body of Christ. Shoulder-to-shoulder in unity. The imagery of a swarm of locusts devouring a fresh field is not something that we would normally associate with God’s people, but if you listened to the sermon, what Pastor Doug said is true! We are no longer the grasshoppers that the enemy wants us to think that we are. The poison that was supposed to kill us (our flesh and sin) did not because of the grace of Jesus. And only we can reach the people who are having the struggle with the sin and brokenness that we have been freed from! We must share the good news of God’s life-giving mercy!

The rain is coming, the harvest will ripen and we must be ready. Let’s be like Joshua and Caleb, ready to enter the Promised Land! It’s time to move forward with faith that God will accomplish what He has said He will do, through us, His people.

May we keep our eyes on Jesus, fill our minds with God’s Word, give Him the rest of our days in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and shine His love to all around us. It is His will!

Need evidence? Here is a prayer that Jesus prayed for us in John 17:20-23  
(Message):

20-23 “ I’m praying not only for them  
But also for those who will believe in Me  
Because of them and their witness about Me.  
The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—  
Just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You,  
So they might be one heart and mind with Us.  
Then the world might believe that You, in fact, sent Me.  
The same glory You gave Me, I gave them,  
So they’ll be as unified and together as We are—  
I in them and You in Me.  
Then they’ll be mature in this oneness,  
And give the godless world evidence  
That You’ve sent Me and loved them  
In the same way You’ve loved Me.”

May you and yours be blessed!  
Your sister in Jesus,  
Liz