

Courageous

Claiming Canaan, Lessons from the Book of Joshua

Lesson 16: Consecrated (14:6-15; 15:13-19)

Forty-five years after setting foot in the land promised to his people, Caleb's heart still chanted, "*The Lord will be with me and I shall be able*" (Joshua 14:12, NKJV). Through years of "weary wandering, of incessant toil and ceaseless conflict, of unfulfilled hopes"ⁱ, he remained a man of unwavering conviction, fixed purpose and strength.

Never was Caleb found among those who complained against God or among those who were skeptical or unbelieving, for he "had caught a glimpse of the reward of obedience, and that was sufficient to keep him true [to his God] for all the rest of his life".ⁱⁱ

Romans 4:20-21 says, "*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*"

God had preserved his life just as He had promised, and now He would reward his faith.

Read Joshua 14:6-15.

1. What does it mean to "wholly follow" God? (v.8)

2. Turn now to Numbers 13 and read verse 1 through Numbers 14:38. What proceeded from Caleb's mouth that testified of what was in his heart? (Numbers 13:30, 14:6-9, 30)

3. Per this passage, what does it mean to *wholly* follow God when faced with a difficult task?

when faced with giants?

in the face of opposition?

when faced with God's promises?

4. Contrast Caleb's convictions/ character with the majority.
Caleb:

Majority:

Circle the attributes to which you tend to default. What might be the root cause?

5. Reread Numbers 14:8. Upon what was Caleb's belief based?

Record Psalm 147:11.

6. Return to Joshua 14. Carefully reread verse 8. What personal possessive is used? Is this the crux of faith? Why or why not?

7. In verse 10 of Joshua, Caleb states, "*The Lord has kept me alive.*" Through what had God sustained him? (v.10) (Numbers 14:29-30, 38.)

8. What does it look like to wholly follow the Lord while bearing the brunt of another's sin? (Numbers 14:33)

9. How does Caleb's statement in verse 10, speak into your past and present circumstances? What hope does it provide for the future? Read Psalm 25, 27 and 31.
10. Describe Caleb's physical strength (Joshua 14:11) and then compare it to Moses' as described in Deuteronomy 34:7. To what can this be attributed?
11. What land did Caleb desire to possess? (Joshua 14:12) What had Caleb seen that he was unable to forget? (Numbers 13:22)
12. Per verse 12, what determined Caleb's ability? Record his declaration.
13. How is faith rewarded?

Read Joshua 15:13-19.

14. Within what tribe was the city of Hebron located?
15. What occurred in Hebron, also called Mamre, that made this land significant to Caleb? Read Genesis 13:18, 14:13, 18:1, 23:2, 17-20, 35:27.

"Caleb had a love that never waned. When, at the age of forty, he toured and inspected the land, one place captured his heart. It was not its fruit, its milk and honey that appealed to him. To this giant of faith such blessings were quite secondary. The name of the place was Hebron. Situated on a rugged mountain, it was the most powerful stronghold of the enemy, and was guarded by the strongest of the giants. There Abraham had pitched his tent. There God had spoken to Abraham face to face. There God had given to Abraham the promise of the land. The word 'Hebron' conveys within itself just this meaning: fellowship, love, and communion. That was the place that Caleb cherished. It is the place that all of us must seek and find."ⁱⁱⁱ

16. In Joshua 15:14, what did Caleb accomplish upon receiving his inheritance?

17. "In Joshua 15:14, we discover that of all the people who received an inheritance in the land, Caleb was the only one who succeeded in expelling the enemy."^{iv} Turn now to Judges 1 and read verses 1-36.

Do you believe that there is a correlation between victory and wholly following God, defeat and partial obedience? Explain.

Alan Redpath said, "The man who wholly followed the Lord was the only one who was wholly victorious in the fight."^{v vi}

18. Return to Joshua 15. What was the reward for conquering Debir? Who acquired it?

19. What did Achsah persuade her new husband to ask of her father? Why might she have wanted this in addition to what she had received? (Review the map from Lesson 15.)

Her words can be translated, "'Give me a blessing [i.e., a dowry]: for thou hast given me a south land' (Joshua 15:19, AV); or, as in the Revised Version, 'Thou hast set me in the land of the south', i.e., in the Negeb, outside the rich valley of Hebron, in the dry and barren land."^{vii}

20. What would Achsah's life look like in the future? Read Judges 3:7-11.

ⁱ Redpath, Alan. *Victorious Christian Living: Studies in the Book of Joshua*. (pg. 174).

ⁱⁱ Redpath, Alan. (pg. 174).

ⁱⁱⁱ Redpath, Alan. (pg. 177).

^{iv} Redpath, Alan. (pg. 176).

^v Redpath, Alan (pg. 176).

^{vi} Alan Redpath states, "I have always found that failure to drive out the enemy in my life is always due to failure wholly to follow the Lord. There is some flaw, some draining away of spiritual strength, some sapping of spiritual vitality, or else the enemy would be exterminated. Absolute triumph is achieved only in response to utter obedience. God only knows, as He searches our hearts, the leakage in our consecration, the flaw in our obedience, the breakdown in following Him, which have resulted in our failure utterly to exterminate the foe... Caleb wholly followed the Lord, and he wholly drove out the enemy." (pg. 176).

^{vii} Easton, M. G. (1893). *Easton's Bible Dictionary*. New York: Harper & Brothers.