

Make Your Life Count

What is God saying to us in this season? “BE BOLD”

Fear does not advance the kingdom of God but Faith does.

Fear does not advance us towards the purposes of God but Faith does.

God moments are moments when we have the favor and blessing of God.

Numbers 13-14 God told Moses to send the 12 spies into the land that He was about to give them. Joshua, along with the 11 other spies went to survey the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1–16). The spies brought back a good report but they inspired fear among the people.

God wanted the Israelites to know what they were up against and to choose to move forward in faith because apart from God choosing to fight for them, they were definitely going to lose.

So, Moses sends out twelve spies (13:3-20). The spies were gone for forty days and while there they made two observations;

- **The land was beautiful and fruitful**
- **The people who inhabited the land were huge and powerful (13:21-24).**

The 12 spies; Joshua and Caleb brought back a good report but the rest of the spies. **Be careful when you are always with the majority. If you are always standing with the crowd, you will miss out on moments when God demands that you stand alone.**

Sometimes God will allow you to step into something or to see something for the moment in order to give you a glimpse of the future. How do you confront your Fear? How do you step out in faith when it is so tempting to give up? How do you stay in obedience when it seems so much easier to walk away?

Even though Joshua and Caleb had faith to “take possession of the land,” (Numbers 13:30) the rest of the people were afraid. They grumbled and rebelled. Because of this, God said, **“Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun” (Numbers 14:30).**

He then instructed the people and Moses to turn back into the wilderness and wander until a new generation had been born and the older one, anyone over the age of 20, had died off. God also refused Moses entrance into the Promised Land because Moses, out of anger, struck the rock God had instructed him to speak to (Numbers 20:7–12).

Their lack of faith completely shaped the history of Israel.

‘We have grown in numbers, wealth, power... We have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. We have become too self-sufficient, too proud to pray to the God that that us’. Abraham Lincoln

1. BE GRATEFUL

See how far you have come. The Children of Israel despite all that they had seen, the parting of the Red sea, the mighty acts of God in Egypt that set them free, they quickly forgot. They saw the **waters become blood, frogs fill every place, lice become dust across Egypt, the swarm of flies fill the land** apart from the land of Goshen, they **saw all the livestock that belong to the Egyptians die**, they **saw the boils afflict everyone in Egypt**, they saw the **hail fire and thunder upon Egypt**. They saw **the locusts come and wipe out everything in Egypt**. There was **darkness upon Egypt for 3 days** and eventually **the death of every firstborn** of both man and animal in Egypt.

It is not the report from the spies that caused them to be ungrateful, the report only revealed their lack of gratitude. The only thing we can offer to God is our gratitude. The Children of Israel forgot what God had done. They had a short memory. The children of Israel forgot the miraculous hand of God that had seen them out of Israel. **When we only see what we don't have then we miss out on the blessing of God in the present.** (Numbers 14:1-4)

We can get so caught up in waiting to really live. Waiting for the perfect moment to enjoy life. You don't have to wait for the perfect job, the perfect partner or the next promotion to make your life count. Single people in the house don't put your life on hold until you get married. **Live and do what God has placed on your heart in the NOW. You can have an impact right NOW!**

We can live our lives constantly waiting for that big break or that big thing and miss out on God's plan for our lives. The things that are small in our eyes are big in the eyes of God and what is big in our eyes is small in the eyes of God.

2. SEE THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE DIFFICULTY (NUMBERS 13)

The greatest challenges of your life will present you with the greatest areas of growth in your life. The greatest obstacles of our life will provide us with the greatest opportunities. **Strength does not come from winning, it's our struggles that develop our strengths.**

God sent the spies not to determine whether they had the strength to win over the land or not but for them to gain a confidence of what God had in store for them.

There will be seasons in your life when God will open windows to give you a glimpse of what the future holds. Don't let those moments lead you into a season of fear but rather use them as building blocks to grow your faith. The spies saw the same things but responded differently. Joshua and Caleb responded by faith but the others spies responded out of fear.

What kept them out of the promised land?

- **A lack of Faith**
- **Fear**
- **Disobedience (1 Samuel 15:22-23)**
- **Rebellion**

Rebel - A person who resists authority, control or convention. Rebellion exists in families, homes, workplaces.

Their rebellion against the love of God would stand in the way again and again of walking in the promises of God. Because of their rebellion, a whole generation died in the wilderness. **God doesn't call us to do great things for Him, He calls us to take small steps of faith in obedience and then He will do great things for His own glory.**

In order to overcome your Fear, you have to TRUST that GOD has gone AHEAD OF YOU!
Numbers 14:6-10

We are often times held back by fear. The fear of the unknown, the fear of failure. God calls us to step out of our fear. Even when we feel afraid, may we be men and women who speak Faith. **Fear does not advance the kingdom of God but Faith does.**

3. GROW IN YOUR SEASON OF HIDDENNESS

For Caleb and Joshua, it was stay faithful in the moment, stay in faith even when it seems impossible, speak faith even when everyone else is confessing differently. We don't read of the acts of Caleb and Joshua but I believe that there is something that was happening in the lives of these men behind the scenes that makes them see with faith and boldness and not fear and anxiety. **We all want to do great things but God is at first keen to see our faithfulness in the small things.**

It is not what you do that makes it sacred, it is How and Why you do it? When you do what you do with excellence and for the glory of God then you make it sacred. Do not be mediocre. Do not be careless with what God has entrusted you with.

Do not let the reality of your Monday morning, dampen your Sunday fire.

You possess a non-renewable resource, which is headed toward total depletion and that resource is TIME. You can either invest your life or let it dribble through your fingers like sand in an hour glass. If there is ever a time to redeem every second, every minute it is now. You may never have tomorrow.

'You can't count your days, but with the Lord as your savior you can make your days count'. Billy Graham.

It is about faithfulness and consistency in the small things: Living with Intentionality

God is great not just because nothing is too big for Him; God is great because nothing is too small for Him!

4. COMMIT TO WALK WITH GOD

2 Timothy 1:12... because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day

Our lives only find meaning in pursuing a relationship with God and His purposes in our lives. Apart from God I am nothing. The reason many of us miss the miracle is because we are not looking or listening. The best place for you to be is in the will of God.

There is a price to be paid for a lack of faith, a price to be paid for Disobedience.

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What is it that you are stepping away from that God is calling you to advance by Faith?