

SUBJECT: An Ordinary Man and An Extraordinary Believer
READING: Jdg 1:20 **And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.**

Introduction:

There are many biblical heroes mentioned in the book of Hebrews: Abel; Enoch; Noah; Abraham; Sara; Isaac; Jacob Joseph Moses, Joshua; Rahab. Some lesser known Gideon; Barak; Samson and Jephthae; One of my favorites and truly a man of which it could be said; he was an ordinary man in the tribe of Judah from which eventually one called “Lion of the tribe of Judah” that one was Jesus Christ! That ordinary man’s name was Caleb. One who we would find somewhat obscure among 603,550 war worthy men over 20 years of age! And yet there is this ordinary man Caleb mentioned by name only 36 times in the Word of God. As compared to his leader Joshua who is mentioned 216 times we read his name infrequently.

But among all of those men only Joshua and Caleb are said to have “wholly followed the Lord.” In fact of the six times the phrase “wholly followed the Lord” is used five of them are referring to Caleb.

Caleb I am sure was like us in many ways he had a future to face, a wife to protect and provide for, and children to care for. They must be a factor to consider when he made decisions.

In all these ways Caleb was an ordinary man, not too much unlike Mark or Eddie or Manne or Dennis! **So the question I ask today is this; How did this Ordinary Man become an Extraordinary Believer? Here is a list of my conclusions;**

I. Caleb Believed God’s Word;

- a. When it was time for the Israelites to enter the promised land God said this in Exo 23:20-28
- i. Verse 20; God promised He would *send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.*
 - ii. Verse 22; God promised; *But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.*
 - iii. Verse 22; God promised *and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.*
 - iv. Verse 25; *And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.*
 - v. Verse 27; *I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.*
 - vi. Verse 28; *And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.*
- b. All the Israelites had to do to possess the land was to believe God.

- i. Based on his faith in God's promises Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. (Num 13:30)
- ii. Ten of the twelve spies trusted themselves, their strength, their abilities and said...

Num 13:31-33 But the men that went up with him said, **We be not able** to go up against the people; for **they are stronger than we**. (32) And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature. (33) And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come of the giants*: and **we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight**.

- iii. **These ordinary men were 100% right when they said; We be not able to go up against the people; they could not and God did not ask them to nor did He expect they to!**
- iv. **God said; I will send an Angel; I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. I will send my fear before thee, and (I) will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets**

Conclusion One Caleb Believed God; Conclusion 2

II. Caleb Was Committed To God's Plan;

Num 14:5-8 *Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. (6) And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: (7) And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. (8) **If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.***

- a. Not only did Caleb believe God he was **committed to DO God's plan** which was to give Israel the Land of Canaan.
 - i. You can believe what God says, but if you are not committed to do your part nothing will happen!
 - ii. Receiving, reading, researching, remembering, and reflecting on the Word of God are all useless if we fail to put them into practice. **James 1:22 says; *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.***
 - iii. As we will see later Caleb was more than a talker, Caleb was a doers of what God said; and according to that Caleb was also a wise man;

Mat 7:24 *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

b. Joshua and Caleb showed their wisdom and commitment to what God had said;

Num 14:7-8 *And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. (8) **If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.***

- i. **They said it was a good land!**
- ii. **They also said *If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us***
- iii. **God delights in our obedience to His word and His will!**

Num 14:9-10 *Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. (10) But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.*

- c. The people on the contrary refused to commit themselves to God's plan and were willing to stone them to death!
 - i. Their actions were not just a lack of faith they were **REBELLIOUS!**
 - ii. When one refuses to pursue God's plan when they know it (**and these people did know because God told them through Moses and they heard it from Joshua and Caleb**) it is not simple disobedience it is **willful rebellion!**

- iii. What is God's attitude about rebellion?
I'll let Him tell you;

Num 14:11-12 *And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? (12) I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.*

- d. Moses intercedes with God on Israel's behalf and God yields to Moses' intercession and tells Moses;

Num 14:20-23 *And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word: (21) But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. (22) **Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; (23) Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:***

- i. Beloved when you are tempted to rebel against God's will **Please I beg you remember this part of Israel's history!**
- ii. God cut them off from His presence and did not allow them to enter the land of Promise.
- iii. They spent their life going in circles until they all died! **Is that what you want from life?**

Conclusion One Caleb Believed God; Conclusion 2

III. Caleb Had A Different Spirit Toward God's Will;

Num 14:24 *But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.*

- a. What does God mean *Caleb, because he had another spirit?*
 - i. The other spies, had a spirit of fear which led to a rebellious spirit;
 1. being leaders in their respective tribes their spirit of fear and rebellion influenced the people and they followed them to their death and rebellion!
 2. Beloved we must remember that our spirit influences family and friends!
 3. So our spirit toward God, the Word of God and the church is going to influence others!
 - ii. The commendation of Caleb's excellent spirit reveals his...
 - (1) Faith in God;
 - (2) Commitment to God's plan and God's word;
 - (3) Courageous attitude in the work of God.

- b. The recompense or reward of Caleb's Godly spirit toward God. "him will I bring into the land where into he went; and his seed shall possess it."

Conclusion One Caleb Believed God; Conclusion 2 Caleb Was Committed To God's Plan; Conclusion 3 **Caleb Had A Different Spirit**; Conclusion 4

IV. **Caleb Also Had a Patient Spirit in pursuit of God's Will;**

- a. For forty years Caleb Believed God; Caleb Was Committed To God's Plan; Caleb maintained A Different Spirit;
 - i. For forty Caleb was forced to walk around Mt, Sinai again and again not because of his rebellion, not because he somehow missed God's will!
 - ii. He wandered in the wilderness because of someone else's sin and rebellion!
 - iii. There is no evidence that he complained or that he became angry, or even was discouraged!
- b. Finally the time comes, Moses dies, and God gives the marching orders to Joshua to cross over Jordan and possess the Land of Canaan that God had Promised all those years ago!
 - i. It takes five years but Israel is in possession of the promised land and Joshua divides the land *As the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land.*
Jos 14:5

- ii. Then it happens; and the following verses reveals God's reward for an **“Extraordinary Believer.”**

Jos 14:6-12 *Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, **Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea.** (Caleb never forgot the promise) (7) **Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. (8) Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God. (9) And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God. (10) And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. (The Lord kept him alive, the Lord remembered His word) (11) As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. (12) NOW THEREFORE GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN,** whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: **if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.***

- iii. Caleb at 80 plus years drove out the *Anakims* that the people feared!
- c. Patience is one of the hardest fruit of the gift of the spirit to grow; but its reward is always worth the wait!

Conclusion:

Caleb was an ordinary man like you and me when he was drafted to go into a land that was mysterious, its customs were much different than his! Its inhabitants were huge men of renown with a reputation of being fierce and merciless in battle.

Because He believed God's word, because he was committed to doing God's will, because he had a different spirit toward God's will and because he was patient in pursuit of God's will Caleb became an Extraordinary Believer!

Beloved we are all ordinary men and women when God saves and calls us but if each of us will

- believe God's word, will
- make a commitment to do God's will,
- if we will in our spirit walk without fear and with courage and
- if we exercise patient in pursuit of God's will each and every one of us can become Extraordinary Believers living on the mountain of God's Grace!

Invitation:

For every ordinary man or woman it all begins at the cross through repentance and faith in Christ's death burial and resurrection.

Once we are saved it is a commitment to believe God's word and following God's will patiently that transforms us into "Extraordinary Believers!"

Will you brothers and sisters make the commitments Caleb made and performed?