

Joshua and Caleb

By Bob Gard
Hollister, Missouri church of Christ
www.hollisterchurchofchrist.org

Notes for lesson “Joshua and Caleb, God’s Faithful Servants”

Slide 1

When you talk about people of great faith in God there are several names that may come to mind, but certainly, two of those names have to be those of Joshua and Caleb. Let’s begin by reading Numbers 14:26-30...

Slide 2

God had delivered the nation of Israel out of the slavery of Egypt and was ready to give them the land that He had promised to them, beginning with the Promise to Abraham. But, before they went in to take the land, God told Moses to send in twelve spies to scout out the land and come back and give a report. When the twelve spies returned, ten of the spies said that the people were too powerful and the cities too fortified to be conquered. But two spies, Joshua and Caleb stood up and said, God has given us the land and with His help we can take the land. Sadly, the nation of Israel listened to the ten spies who said they could not take the land. As you can imagine, God was very angry with His people for their lack of faith and He punished them by having them wander in the wilderness for forty years and everyone who was twenty years of age and older would die and not be able to enter the land of Promise, that is except Joshua and Caleb. Because of their great faith God would spare them and they would be able to enter the Promise Land when the time came. Notice what we read in Numbers 14:24....

Slide 3

God was proud of Caleb because he “has followed Me fully.” The same can be said of Joshua since Joshua and Caleb were the only spies, out of the twelve, that had complete faith and trust in God to go in and take the Promise Land like God required. So, we see that Joshua and Caleb....

Slide 4

They are great examples of what it means to be God's faithful servant. As we are going to see, they followed God fully...

With all of their hearts!... When it was dangerous!...

When it was unpopular!... All the days of their lives!

But, what about us? Wouldn't it be great....

Slide 5

We can, if we will do as Joshua and Caleb did, by faithfully doing the will of God no matter what others say and do! No matter the obstacles put in our way! Let's take a closer look at the life of these two great men and see if we can learn how we can better be "God's Faithful Servant." The first thing we notice is that Joshua and Caleb followed God with all their heart...

Slide 6

That is exactly what Joshua and Caleb did; they loved God with all of their heart, soul and mind. Whatever God asked them to do they did, they were ready to serve no matter the odds or the circumstances.. We need to be like Joshua and Caleb in loving God with all of our heart, soul and mind, our whole being. But many who start out loving God with all of their heart end up with a heart that is divided. For example, let's look at King Solomon....

Slide 7

This is a very sad statement concerning King Solomon, the wisest man to ever lived. He ended up not truly loving God with all of his heart, soul and mind. Instead of faithfully following God, Solomon disobeyed God. It seems that the influence of his many foreign wives caused him to follow after their false gods instead of faithfully following the One True God. He should have been more like his father David, whom God said was a man after His own heart.....

Even though he had committed some great sins, David repented of his sins and turned back to God. What about us? Do we love God with all of our heart, soul and mind or have we allowed the love of the world to divide our hearts?

Next, we see that Joshua and Caleb followed God even when it was dangerous...

Slide 8

The 12 spies went into the Promise Land to scout it out and they saw that it truly did flow with milk and honey. One cluster of grapes was so big it had to be carried out on a pole on the shoulders of two men! But they also saw powerful nations, fortified cities and giants! Look at Numbers 13:27-33...

Slide 10

The spies that had been sent in by God had not only seen a land that flowed with milk and honey but also saw a land of fortified cities, mighty people and giants! So, when they gave their report to the people, they said, we can not take the land because the “land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants.” There are “men of great stature” and there are “giants in the land!” Another words, they were afraid! They did not want to go take the land that God had promised them because it was too DANGEROUS! But Joshua and Caleb had complete faith and trust in God. Even though there were fortified cities and men of great stature and even giants, Joshua and Caleb knew that God was on their side and that they could conquer the land. Just as Caleb stated in verse 30...

Slide 11

Joshua and Caleb knew the mission would be dangerous, so why were they not afraid? Because they knew that they would not be alone in the battle, God would be on their side! Just like the song that we often sing, “The Battle belongs to the Lord!” God would be in the battle with them leading the way! God had promised them the land and Joshua and Caleb were ready to go and take possession of it! What about us? We all have difficulties in our lives. We all have obstacles that Satan puts in our way, so what do we do? Do we hold back or run away because the task in front of us is difficult? Are we afraid that we might fail? Are we afraid of getting hurt or someone making fun of us? Or are we like Joshua and Caleb, ready to go forward into battle, knowing that God is with us, ready to help us fight our own giants, whatever they might be! Just as Paul stated in Romans 8:31...

So, not only were Joshua and Caleb willing to follow God when it was dangerous but they were also ready to follow God when it was unpopular....

Slide 12

Serving God is often unpopular and sometimes it takes a lot of faith and courage to stand up against those who rebel against the Lord, especially when it involves those who profess to be on the Lord's side! Joshua and Caleb saw this first hand as we read about in Numbers 14:2-10....

Slide 14

What a sad commentary on God's people. Of the twelve spies that God and Moses sent in to scout out the land, all of them, except Joshua and Caleb, complained and said that they could not take the land, and they were ready to turn back to a life of slavery in the land of Egypt. How sad! These people had seen some of God's most powerful miracles in the history of mankind! From the 10 plagues in Egypt, to the parting of the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud during the day, the fiery pillar at night, the manna from heaven and yet they did not have enough faith in God, to believe that He could conquer their enemies in a land that God had promised them! God had been promising them this land since Abraham and now when it is time to finally see the promise fulfilled, they cower in fear. They had turned their backs on God and were even willing to stone Joshua and Caleb to death for telling the Truth and standing with God! How sad, how terribly sad. No wonder God was angry with them. But through it all Joshua and Caleb remained faithful. Then the last thing we want to talk about is, Joshua and Caleb were God's faithful servants because they...

Slide 15

Joshua and Caleb did not just follow God for a short period of time, they were great examples of what it means to be faithful to God all of their lives. Notice Joshua 14:6-12...

Slide 19

What a great testament of the faith from God's faithful servant, Caleb! Here he is, 85 years old and still ready and willing to go in and fight for the Lord! Oh, that we would have such great faith and determination! I can just picture Caleb saying, "Just stand back and let me at them!" He wasn't worried about dying or getting hurt he was just ready and willing to serve his God no matter the consequences! Whatever God asked of him he was ready to do! That is the type of faith that each one of us needs to have and is also like the faith and determination that we read about of the Apostle Paul...

Slide 20

Just like Joshua and Caleb, Paul remained faithful to the end. No matter what it was that God asked of them they were ready and willing to go! No matter what obstacles were in their way, they fought the good fight, they finished the race and they kept the faith. Paul says that a crown of righteousness is waiting for him and for everyone that is a faithful servant of God. As we have seen, Joshua and Caleb were men of great faith. So we see that....

Slide 21

...followed God fully....

With all of their hearts!... When it was dangerous!...

When it was unpopular!... All the days of their lives!

Can that be said of you and me? Are you like Joshua and Caleb?

Are You A Faithful Servant of the Lord?