

22 March, 2020

Opening welcome prayer

Announcements Miss Donna

Tithes and offerings can be mailed to Journey Church 1701 East F. Street
Torrington WY 82240

Please do not stop your giving if it is at all possible. We are still doing the ministry of the church we are simply doing it differently than last week! Gather Kids wherever you might be. We will still continue to pray for our kids!

We will have the written transcript available for people who are not on Facebook. I am trusting you THE Journey Church to help spread the word to everyone in the church about the availability of the transcript/bible study !

Message...Whose report will you believe? Which report will you give?

Our text this morning is from the book of Numbers Chapter 13.

Some background for this passage of scripture.

The nation of Israel was wandering around in the desert. They had been a people that quite honestly were not living in a manner that would warrant God's blessings.

Read:

Exodus 15

Exodus 32

Numbers 11

Numbers 12

Numbers 14

These are just a few instances of disobedience on the part of the children of Israel.

We read these simply to put in our minds the grace and glory of our God! Israel even in the 13th chapter of Numbers was still being blessed by God. Even after all of those years and all those instances of disobedience God was giving them the opportunity to receive the land He promised to give them.

This puts chapter 13 into a bit of perspective.

God directs Moses to choose 12 men to go as spies and scout out the Land. As we have read in Chapter 13 these men did indeed go into the promised land.

We also read their report was that the Land was indeed flowing with Milk and Honey.

If we were to stop right there we would have a hard time understanding why they did not possess the land immediately.

This brings us to the message for today.

I want us all to be extremely cautious whom we listen to in this time of turmoil!

We have been promised some things from God.

John 10:10

"A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance."

John 10:10 HCSB

John 14:27 HCSB

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Your heart must not be troubled or fearful."

John 14:27 HCSB

These are quite comforting passages. They were given to us for that very reason. God wanted to comfort us!

There are also passages like...

Revelation 13:14 HCSB

"He deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs that he is permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image of the beast who had the sword wound and yet lived."

Revelation 13:14 HCSB

This last passage of scripture is exactly why we have to be careful whose report we listen to.

As we read in Numbers the Children of Israel were living their "NORMAL" life in Egypt. Remember they have been slaves there for 400 years. So that honestly was the only life they knew such as it was. It truly was their normal! Then came the exodus where God uses Moses to free them from their captivity.

Next they enter the desert in search of the promised land. When they finally have an opportunity to see the promised land. (although I do not understand why God would still allow them to even see the promised land) The twelve spies all came back from the promised land with the same report...

It truly was a land flowing with milk and honey.

The clumps of grapes had to be carried on a stick between two men! So the report confirmed what God had told them... it was just as he described it to them !

Twelve men went. Up to a point all of them returned with a great report but this is where the story takes a divisive turn.

10 of the spies also reported on the strength and size of the inhabitants!

Numbers 13 verse 28,29

"However, the people living in the land are strong, and the cities are large and fortified. We also saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites are living in the land of the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the Jordan."

Numbers 13:28-29 HCSB

There were two of the spies that looked at things through a bit of a different lens.

Ten men looked at the natural!

Verse 31-33

"But the men who had gone up with him responded, "We can't go up against the people because they are stronger than we are!" So they gave a negative report to the Israelites about the land they had scouted: "The land we passed through to explore is one that devours its inhabitants, and all the people we saw in it are men of great size. We even saw the Nephilim there — the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim! To ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and we must have seemed the same to them."

Numbers 13:31-33 HCSB

Please notice just before the ten spies report we also hear the report of two other spies.

Verse 30

"Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, " We must go up and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it! ""

Numbers 13:30 HCSB

In every situation in life we need to understand we can look at things two different ways...

1. In the natural...it is too big! This task is insurmountable.
2. Through Gods eyes! Through the lens of HIS POWER!

Shadrach Meshach and Abednego all looked at the furnace. In the natural they knew the furnace was too hot to survive!

But their response was oh great king may you live forever BUT We cannot worship you! And if you throw us into that fire we still will not worship you. And even if we die in this Our God will deliver us!

Today we have to choose ! We can choose to face this virus and these odd times through the lens of the natural and operate in fear or...

We can choose to look at things through the eyes of faith.

We might have to go through the Fire. We might not get to meet together at the church for a couple of weeks BUT our God will deliver us.

I prefer to look through the lens of faith.

I will honor our governor in his request that we not meet together for two weeks.

For two weeks we will have our on line services and we will prepare by faith for our "Family Reunion" on Palm Sunday!

The children of Israel had to choose which report to believe. They chose to believe what they saw in the natural and thereby were denied ever going into the promised land.

They could have said yes the people are strong and mighty. BUT our God is bigger and he has already told us the land is ours we can take it from them with his help.

We will not defeat this virus in our own strength. But if we continue to place our faith in Jesus Christ we will overcome!

We may have a fight ahead of us but we will take the land with God's help.

I have been sending inspirational scripture readings out for the past several months, on a daily basis. If you would like to receive our daily message please just call me and let me know!

Close in prayer

Make sure you share this message with folks on your Facebook page!