

Joshua – Lesson 39: Success – Succeeding where others fail (Conviction of Caleb) Joshua 14

1 Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 38 (Succeeding where others fail)

1. According to Joshua 14:6, where were the children of Israel when Caleb delivered his speech?

Answer: Gilgal.

2. According to Joshua 14:8, why was Caleb's report different from the other spies?

Answer: But I wholly followed the LORD my God.

3. According to Joshua 14:11, how did God prepare Caleb for his inheritance?

Answer: As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me.

4. According to Joshua 14:12, who inhabited the land Caleb asked for?

Answer: The Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced.

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits.

True / False

False Caleb was a teenager when he spied out the land. (JOS 14:7)

True Caleb was an 85 year old warrior, when he asked for his inheritance. (JOS 14:10)

True The believer is resurrected incorruptible, immortal. (1COR 15:53)

True Christ expects the believer to follow His commandments. (JOHN 14:15)

Lesson 39: Conviction of Caleb

"Never give up, never surrender!" — Buzz Lightyear (animated character of the movie Toy Story)

- Although in entertainment, the idea is that true faith is not shaken, and is the believer's source of strength.
- An attitude founded in conviction that, in knowing the truth, to stop believing is simply not an option.

"You just can't beat the person who won't give up." – Babe Ruth

- The strength from within must be stronger than your strength, that when your limit is reached, you continue.

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

Caleb's enduring faith is an example to the children of Israel – and to all the children of God.

Joshua 14:14 – Caleb's belief defined

(14) Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel..

"Unto this day" defines the character of Caleb as his belief in God never waived

Of the time we know of Caleb, from his introduction as one of the spies, through the conquest, up to this point (45 years), his testimony only grew as he carried out his actions in unending faith.

He is described as one who “wholly followed the LORD God of Israel”, an attribute any believer surely hopes to be said of themselves:

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

Caleb never stopped believing, even though there were many great disappointments:

- **Numbers 13:31** 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.
 - o The report of the other 10 spies – Swaying the hearts of the children of Israel
 - o All his family and friends consumed in the wilderness, as all adults (except for Caleb and Joshua) were condemned by God (NUM 14:23)
 - o Military losses against Amalekites and Canaanites, as they tried to continue without God
 - o Witnessing the judgement of God as the earth opened and swallowed Korah (and all that pertained to him – NUM 15-16), to include 14,000 consumed by plague.
 - o The children of Israel attacked by fiery serpents, killing many (NUM 21)

Caleb never became bitter or hardened against God, but demonstrated a faith that defined him as one who ‘wholly followed the LORD God of Israel’

The test of faith is not in how you follow God when all is pleasant, but in hardship: the heartbreak of loss, disappointment in the world, and adversity in life:

Matthew 13:19-23 – Parable of the Sower

(19) *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

- The unbeliever who hears the truth, but does not accept

(20) *But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;*

(21) *Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

- Outward acceptance of the truth (with noticeable ‘joy’), but never actually believed (no root - only emotional), not born again of the Spirit (temporal acceptance only)

(22) *He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*

- The danger zone for the believer: This is where the children of Israel (and many believers) struggle.
 - o The children of Israel first hand witnessed the power of God in Egypt, the exodus out of Egypt, in the wilderness, and in the conquest of the inheritance, but many failed in disbelief, or were distracted by the fruits of the world
 - o The believer is continually bombarded with distractions of the world – anything to appeal to the inner lust and vanity of humanity (pleasures, power/position, purpose, etc.), making it very easy for the believer to put God aside (for a moment) to indulge in ‘self’.
 - o This is where the Word is choked, and the believer is unfruitful

(23) But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

- This is the testimony of Caleb, and his example is provided as an object lesson in faith.

The believer is encouraged to use faith to bring fruit – Not to simply ‘work’, but to allow God to work through you.

Joshua 14:12 – Caleb follows through

(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.

Caleb drove out the Anakims as God had commanded, and took the mountain for a possession.

Matthew 22:37-38

(37) Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

(38) *This is the first and great commandment.*

- Caleb made God his top priority and God accepted Caleb for his faith

Other tribes did not utterly drive out the inhabitants as the Lord commanded, possibly to enjoy a measure of peace and the spoils of victory.

The temporary comfort of the world was more important than wholly following God, and is a measure of unfaithfulness. This unfaithfulness results in consequence throughout the history of Israel as the descendants allow pagan worship to contaminate the worship of God, and God allows Israel to suffer. An example:

1 Kings 11:4-5,9-11

(4) For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of David his father.

(5) For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

(9) And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

(10) And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

(11) Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

- The world will discover your weakness and exploit it: You will be tempted with the things that will cause you to abandon God, seek self-satisfaction (even Solomon in unprecedented wisdom fell away from wholly following God).

The believer must not rely on personal strength to resist the world, but to wholly trust God, rely on His strength, to be good and faithful servant – One who produces fruit (some 100, some 60, some 30).

Next Lesson: Joshua – Succeeding where others fail – Without envy

Joshua – – Lesson 39: Success – Succeeding where others fail (Conviction of Caleb)

Study Questions

1. According to Matthew 25:21, what is the reward to the good and faithful servant?

2. According to Matthew 13:22, what is the impact when a believer yields to the cares of the world?

3. According to Joshua 14:12, who must Caleb drive out from his inheritance?

4. According to 1 Kings 11:11, what did God judge against Solomon for his disobedience?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God with all thy _____ and with all thy _____, and with all thy _____.

True / False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | The children of Israel lost 14,000 to plague in the wilderness on God's judgement. |
| T | F | The children of Israel were attacked by fiery serpents in the wilderness on God's judgement. |
| T | F | The believer is expected to produce fruit. |
| T | F | Solomon remained perfect in heart all his life. |