

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

JOSHUA 13:1-21:45

The chapters we have before us today deal primarily with apportioning the land of Canaan among the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Now, we could spend the next thirty or forty minutes just reading all the boundaries and borders and cities and who got what territory, but I don't want to do that this morning...and aren't you glad? ☺

What I'd like to do is spend our time looking at an 85 year old man named Caleb...

By the way did you hear about the 85 year old woman who was getting her portrait painted? She asked the artist to paint a huge, beautiful diamond ring on her finger and a huge, beautiful diamond brooch on her blouse and a huge, beautiful pair of diamond earrings in her ears. The artist said, "But you don't have any of that kind of jewelry." She said, "Yes, I know, but I also know I'm going to die soon and I just know my husband will marry a beautiful young blonde and I want to drive her crazy looking for my jewelry."

Now, that didn't have a thing to do with the lesson...but I just thought I would share that with you...Let's turn to **chapter 14** of **Joshua**,, **Verses 6-15...**

Now, what does what happened to Caleb so long ago have to do with us here this morning? Caleb said concerning a very strategic mountain, "I want this mountain..." and he took it! He took it by faith and it's a great lesson for all of us! See, we need to remember that this isn't just interesting Bible history. Remember that Paul told us in **1 Corinthians 10:11**... "All these things happened unto them as examples for us..." So, I want us to look at Caleb's life and allow it to be an example for us this morning.

Also, I want us to remember that Canaan speaks of the believer's **victory** and it speaks of the **Spirit-filled life**. It speaks of what God longs for His children to enjoy. **God doesn't want us to live lives of mediocrity**...He wants us to go into the land and possess all the blessings He has for us. Do you want that? Do you want blessing? Do you want real victory? Do you want to be really Spirit-filled? Well, let's look at how we can do just that!

The very first thing we need to see about this man, Caleb, is

1) His Character

We'll never have blessing and victory and be Spirit-filled unless we have the kind of character that Caleb had. Look at **verse 8**... **"fully" NAS; "wholly" KJV; "wholeheartedly" NIV.**

Then, Joshua speaks back to Caleb in the last part of **verse 9**... "because you have followed the LORD my God **fully**..."

Caleb said, "I followed the LORD fully..." and Joshua said, "Yes, Caleb you did follow the LORD fully... wholly...wholeheartedly..."

Then **verse 14** repeats this again...

Now, what does this mean? It means that Caleb was not a half-hearted person. The obvious characteristic of this man is that he was all out for God. Let me ask you a question...

"Have you fully, completely, wholeheartedly, totally followed the Lord?"

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

I'm not asking you if you **believe in God**. I'm not even asking you if you **love God** or **read your Bible every day** or **pray every day**...I'm asking you if you are **completely sold out to Him**. I have to ask myself that question, "Am I completely, totally, one hundred percent sold out to God?"

There was a man who lived in another generation whose name was Dwight L. Moody. I know you've all heard of this man.

Dwight L. Moody was a shoe clerk who got saved and he became an international evangelist. He greatly moved the United States and Europe for Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, if you go to Chicago today, you find the Moody Bible Institute. It was founded because of the ministry of Dwight L. Moody. If you take **Moody Monthly Magazine**, it's named for Dwight L. Moody.

Dwight L. Moody was a very interesting man. He had never been to seminary...in fact, it is said that he slaughtered the King's English. (I happen to have a book of his sermons and I love to read them...bad grammar and all...)

Moody was saved when he was nineteen years old. He'd never really made much of an impact for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ until one time when he was in England and he heard a quiet spoken preacher by the name of Henry Varley. Henry Varley said something that would shake Dwight L. Moody to his very foundation. Here's what Mr. Varley said, and I want you to listen...

"The world has yet to see what God can do in and through and with and for a man wholly committed to Him."

Would you like to hear it again? Dwight L. Moody heard Henry Varley say,

"The world has yet to see what God can do in and through and with and for a man wholly committed to Him."

Let me tell you what Moody said at the moment he heard that. At that moment, this is what Moody said, **"At that moment, I resolved to be that man, and I made a total commitment to Jesus Christ."**

And from that time on, he was radically and dramatically changed. Moody's biographer said that he took two continents and shook them for Jesus Christ...**just an ordinary man!**

The secret of Moody's life and the secret of Caleb's life was the same... they **fully, completely, wholeheartedly** followed the Lord God.

Stephen Olford tells about some preachers...some clergymen who were wanting to have a revival crusade, and they were discussing who they would get to be the evangelist.

There were several who wanted Dwight L. Moody. They said, "We want Moody...let's get Moody...let's get Moody..." Well, there was another man there who wasn't so sold on Moody and he was a little perturbed with his fellow preachers. And he said, "Moody, Moody, Moody...that's all you fellows talk about is Dwight L. Moody...**does Moody have a monopoly on the Holy Ghost?**" And one of them, **"No, but the Holy Ghost has a monopoly on Dwight L. Moody."**

Now, **Beloved, that's the key**...None of us has a monopoly on the Holy Spirit...He's available to each of us. The question is, "Does He have a monopoly on us?" The question is, "Are we like Caleb? Are we one hundred percent sold out to God?"

As I said before, **I have to ask myself that question**. There's no reason I shouldn't be. There's no reason **you** shouldn't be. There's no reason I cannot be. We ought to be. We are not our own, we are bought with a price.

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Now, first we've seen Caleb's character. What was his character? **Sold out!!** Now, I want you to see how his character led to

2) His Confidence

Character leads to confidence. And here was a man who was 85 years old, and he's marked with an incredible confidence.

Now, I want you to see his confidence. Look at **verse 6**... "the LORD spoke..." Look at **verse 10**... "the LORD spoke..." Look at **verse 12**... "the LORD spoke..."

Here's a man who has confidence in what God said. He said, "Now, God said this...and God said this...and God said this..."

Now, I'm sure all of us here this morning would say that the Bible is the Word of God, wouldn't we? I don't think there is a one of us who does not believe that. But yet, **it doesn't turn to faith in all our hearts.**

Why not? Why don't some people have the confidence that other people have? Does God have favorites?

I mean, does God just kind of pick out one person and say, "Now, you can have faith," and say to another person, "No, faith's not for you..."?

Listen, character is the soil in which the seed of the Word of God grows and produces faith. Caleb knew that God had promised him that mountain and he also knew that God's promises are "yea and amen..." They are "yes in Christ Jesus."

Remember the parable of the sower? Which seed brought forth fruit? **It was the seed that was sown on soil that was prepared to receive it, wasn't it?** Bill and I just planted some spring bedding plants this past week, and you know what? We didn't just throw them in a pot or in the ground without first preparing the soil. We mixed compost with potting soil and then we mixed manure with that and then we threw a little fertilizer for good measure.

I believe in order for our confidence to be as strong as Caleb's confidence, we must have the kind of heart that Caleb had. **Caleb had soaked up the Word of God...he had taken the Word of God literally...and he believed God had promised him that mountain, and because he had confidence in God's Word he had the confidence that he could indeed possess it!**

Our hearts must be prepared by taking God at His Word.

Character leads to confidence if our character is sold out to God. Then, our confidence will be placed in that which will not fail!! We see that in Caleb's life and we see that confidence led to

3) His Courage

If you think what Caleb did was easy, think again!

First of all, he had to overcome **grasshoppers**. This was one of the hardest things he had to overcome...**verses 7...**

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Now, who were his brethren? These were the folks who said, "We can't take this land, because there are giants in the land and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers and so we were in their sight...we felt like grasshoppers and they agreed with us."

These folks had a grasshopper complex and they said, "We're never going to be able to overcome these giants..." Ten of the men said it **couldn't** be done and two of the men said it **could** be done, which leads me to say **the majority is almost always wrong**.

If you haven't found this out by now...let me just clue you in...

If you go all out for God, and you get serious about serving God, you must expect opposition. I mean, sometimes when a wife gets serious about serving God, the husband tries to cool her down, and sometimes if the husband gets serious about serving God, the wife tries to pull him back.

There are always grasshoppers among us. If you are going to do anything great for God, there will always be the "cold water committed." They just don't want you to do it....they say, "It just cannot be done...let's not go off the deep end..."

Not only did Caleb have to face grasshoppers, he also had to face **giants**.

Verse 12...

Caleb said, "That's alright..." These men were big...they were incredibly big. Their cities were fortified. They were **evil**. They were **arrogant**. And Caleb said, "That's alright...I can overcome them."

Now, do you have any giants that are keeping you from living the Spirit-filled, victorious, joyful, restful Christian life? What about the giant of **discontent**? Of **unbelief**? Of **grouchiness**? Of **self-pity**? Of **pride**? Of a **critical spirit**? Of a **rotten attitude**? ☺

What do you say when you think of the giants in you life?
Do you say, "You know, I just don't believe I can overcome these things..."? Well, let me tell you...YES, YOU CAN!!

Think about this with me...

What was the difference in Caleb and the other? The grasshoppers on the one hand, and Caleb on the other? **Well, the grasshoppers looked at those giants from their own perspective**...I mean, here are these giants up there, probably kin to Goliath...over nine feet tall, and they said, "Man, these are warlike people...They're BIG warlike people and we can't possibly overcome these folks."

But Caleb wasn't thinking, "Look how much bigger they are than I am." Caleb was thinking, "**Look how much smaller they are than God is.**"

Caleb saw the giants in the land from God's perspective!!

Right now the NCAA tournament is going on and some of these guys are really tall, aren't they? Now, if you were to meet one of these basketball players you would think, "Look how much taller he is than I am."

But, if you get up in a plane and you look down, you wouldn't be able to even pick him out from a crowd, would you? He would just look like an ant crawling around on the earth, wouldn't he? **See, it's a matter of perspective!**

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

So, you say, "I've got these incredible problems!!" **Well, you probably do.** And you say, "They're very big to me..." **And, they probably are.** But I want to ask you a question, Beloved... **"Are they big to God?"**

Think of the biggest problem you have. Then double it. Then double it again. Then I want to ask you again... **"Is it big to God?"**

NO!! It's **not** big to God!! See, Caleb had character and because he had character, he had confidence, and because he had confidence, he had courage. Do you know what Caleb literally said when he gave his report back in Numbers? He said,

"If the LORD delight in us then He will bring us into this land and give it us...a land that floweth with milk and honey..."

Now, listen to this,

"Only rebel not against the LORD, neither fear the people of the land for they are bread for us."

B R E A D...not B R E D...they were not conceived for us. BREAD like a loaf of bread. These giants...these people you say we can't overcome... **they are our food.** We'd say today that **they are a piece of cake.**

Now, hang in here with me...what do you do with bread? Well, of course you eat it!! After you eat it, what does it do? It turns to **strength** and it turns to **energy** and you **GROW by eating bread.** Bread is the staff of life, isn't it?

Now, Caleb said, "These guys...these giants are bread for us." Those difficulties...those giants...why doesn't God just remove them? No!! That's what God wants to feed you with. That's what you're going to grow on.

Let's think about the NCAA tournament again. Let's think about one of the teams that will be playing for the championship. Let's put that team out on the floor and let's don't put the other team out there for them to play against. Well, I guess they'll score every time they go up and down the court...but what good is that? **If there's no opposition, there's also no real victory,** is it?

God isn't going to remove those giants from you...

God is going to help you to overcome them and when you overcome them you're going to feed on them and when you feed on them you're going to grow and when you grow you're going to get strong in the Lord and you will know victory and God will get the glory!!!

Caleb had character, and because he had character he had confidence, and because he had confidence, he had courage, and because he had courage, let's look at

4) His Conquest

God led him and God gave him the victory. **Verse 14** tells us that Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb.

Hebron is a place of fullness, and fruitfulness. The Spirit-filled life produces much fruit...

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,
Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Are there any mountains in your life that you'd like to conquer? Would you say this morning that you can't conquer any mountains because you're over the hill already? ☺ I believe folks our age often get weary in well doing...we just sort of give up the struggles and say, "I've done MY part, I'm not going to do anymore. I'm too old, and I'm too tired and I'm too weak."

EX: Kay Arthur's enthusiasm!!

Let me just read to you from *Isaiah 40*...

"Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Everlasting God, the LORD, the creator of the ends of the earth
does not become weary or tired.

There's no searching of His understanding."

(God never gets **tired**, God never **passes out**, God is never **in a panic**...God never comes to a place where **He doesn't know what to do**...)

Now listen...

"He, (God) gives strength to the weary,
and to him who lacks might He increases power.

Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;

They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary."

It doesn't matter if we're over the hill...It doesn't matter if we're young or if we're old, there are still mountains that we can conquer, and God will give us the strength to do it!!

Are you tired of living in the desert of mediocrity? Charles Swindoll wrote a book one time and he entitled it...**Living Above the Level of Mediocrity** and that's where God wants us all to live.

Wouldn't you just like to say, "God, You promised me a victorious life. I want that mountain, I know giants live on that mountain, but those giants are not going to keep me out of it...and as a matter of fact...they're going to be food that I'll feed on and they'll make me stronger."

~~~~~

Let's covenant to ask ourselves this question... "Am I totally committed to Jesus Christ? Does the Holy Spirit have a monopoly on me?"

Let's be willing to say, "I want that mountain...it belongs to me...God promised me victory and whether I am 45 or 65 or 75, I want it, and I'm going to claim it."

May God help us to have the **character** of Caleb  
and the **confidence** of Caleb  
and the **courage** of Caleb  
so that we may live the Christian life of victory and blessing!!