**Old Testaments Characters**

***Joshua and Caleb: Overcoming the Impossible***

***Numbers 13:26-14:10***

February 9, 2022

***Introduction:*** *God seems to delight in setting up impossible situations – Davis against Goliath, Gideon with three hundred men going into battle against 135,00 Midianites, eleven fearful apostle taking o the Roman Empire with the gospel. Amid a society that values control, power, security, and human strength, it is no wonder we struggle to allow Christ to lead us through seemingly impossible situations.*

*The people of Israel felt that way after the twelve spies, who Moses had sent out to explore the Promised Land, returned with their report. God has already freed Israel from their miserable slavery in Egypt and miraculously provided for them in the desert. Now asked them to trust Him by invading the Promised Land. The problem, however, was that the land had large, well-fortified cities filled with giants. It seemed impossible****. Read Numbers 13:26-14:10***

1. What report do the spies give to Moses, Aaron, and the Israelite community after forty days of spying out the land (13:26-29)?
2. How does Caleb’s perspective differ from that of the majority (13:30)?
3. What further negative information do the rest of the spied mention to oppose Caleb (13:31-33)?
4. Describe how the people react to the differing perspectives (14:1-4,10)?
5. Why is the temptation so great for them to return to Egypt?
6. How do Joshua and Caleb respond during the tremendous unbelief of the people (14:6-9)?
7. Why do they come to an entirely different conclusion that the other ten spies?
8. Due to their lack of faith in the promise and the power of God, this generation of Israelites, except for Joshua and Caleb, never entered the Promised Land (Numbers 32:10-12). How does our lack of faith prevent us from experiencing God’s blessing and power in our lives?

**For Reflection**:

* Image that you are one of the Israelites at the border of the land God promised to give you. What thoughts and feelings would you have as you listened to both sides of this debate?
* What giants are confronting you today? Your family, church?
* How can the example of Caleb and Joshua encourage you to trust God more fully in seemingly impossible situations in your life? What specific step(s) can you tale to follow their example in dealing with you “giants”?

**Now or Later**: Read the story of David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17. What additional insights does this text provide for you in overcoming the impossible in your life?

**Prayer and Praise:** Spend time praising God for who God is and ask God to grant you the confidence and faith of Joshua and Caleb.

**On Your own**: February is Black History Month. How will you celebrate?

Discover something new you did not know about Black History

**Next Study: Elijah: Knowing God’s Power (1 Kings 18:16-40)**