

“You can still PROSPER in a dry place (where everyone else has failed!) ”

Lessons From The Life Of Caleb

We are introduced to Caleb when Moses asked him and eleven other men to represent their tribes in spying out the land of Canaan (Num. 13:1-3).

A few things to note here:

- **The wilderness is a state of barrenness, unfruitfulness, imposed on you by your environment - not God. It's dry; it's uncomfortable.**

You want to progress in your career, but they say there are too few jobs.

You want to grow your business, but they say the market is flooded.

You want to get married but they say all the good ones are taken.

- **God always has an EXIT plan - it was never God's intention for them to stay there. As soon as they got to that dry place, he set in motion a plan to get them out if it.**

“Send out the spies,” he said.

Isaac reaped a hundredfold in severe famine. Genesis 26

Joseph was sent ahead to Egypt to preserve his family during the famine.

Elijah and the brook. 1 Kings 17

- **If you've been there a long time, it's because you're too busy participating in it to see the exit plan God has prepared for you.**

Lesson 1: God ALWAYS has a way of escape from unfruitfulness into abundance. Until you accept that, you will not take personal responsibility for being stuck there.

Back to the 12 spies.

The actions of these leaders actually sealed the fate **of a whole nation**. They weren't being wicked, nor did they intend to lead their followers astray. **They simply acted based on what they believed.**

But the end result was still catastrophic.

Examples of faulty belief systems:

1. Scarcity mentality - “we can’t afford this and that”
2. Fearful mentality - this manifests as excessive negativity

Belief systems drive action.

And actions have consequences - positive and negative - **not just for the leader, but potentially a whole generation**. These leaders failed because they didn’t understand their **responsibility** to continually question the beliefs they hold on to.

Numbers 14:33 “And your children will be like shepherds, wandering in the wilderness for forty years. In this way, they will pay for your faithlessness, until the last of you lies dead in the wilderness.”

Lesson 2: Every ungodly way of thinking you hold on to is being INDOCTRINATED into the lives of the people you lead. It’s your responsible to renew your mind, not just for yourselves, but for the coming generation.

Now let’s look at Caleb, and how he prospered where the vast majority failed. He simply aligned himself with God’s exit plan.

God’s Exit Plan

1. The first step is **exposure**. He will bring you into an environment of abundance. Numbers 13: 23-27
2. Why? He wants to **expand your mind**. But this is where a lot of people miss it - they respond in the **flesh**. Through envy, backbiting, pride, fear etc., they refuse to engage with the new vision he is introducing them to. Numbers 13:28-29
3. Why does he expand your mind? **So that your speech can change and line up with where he’s taking you**. Numbers 13: 30-33; 14:7-9
4. **ONCE YOUR SPEECH LINES UP, GOD’S EXIT PLAN GOES INTO FULL FORCE**. Numbers 14: 21-24

Lesson 3: If you want to prosper in a dry place, you must cooperate with God by aligning your expectations and your speech with the abundance he’s showing you.