

HELEN SANDERS  
7-30-2023  
A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

So often we see in the scriptures where the crowd mentality caused Israel to sin. The ones that did follow God were in the minority. Such is the case with Caleb. In Numbers 13 and 14 God told the children of Israel to go in and spy out the land (Canaan) that he had given them (Numbers 13:1). It was not a command to see if the land was obtainable. It was a command to see what was in the land God had already prepared for them. It would be theirs because God said it was theirs.

The Israelites had been in Egypt so long that no one had any knowledge of the “promised land” that God had given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They had never been there. They had heard of it, but they had no personal experience of it. They had been entwined with the Egyptian gods for so long, that they knew little about Jehovah.

When Moses showed up on the scene, they did not like the changes he brought. His words to Pharaoh cost them increased labor, and they reacted in anger. They liked the way things had been and complained. This is often the case when God wants to do something new in our lives. We like the “comfortable place” of what is and do not like the unfamiliarity of what might be.

Only Joshua and Caleb saw the potential of the land. In Numbers 14:24 it says, ***“But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.”***

Numbers 14:22-23 shows us the spirit of the others (except for Joshua). ***“<sup>22</sup>Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these TEN TIMES, and have not hearkened to my voice: <sup>23</sup>Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it.”***

Because they provoked God they missed out. They murmured, complained, and were not thankful in the least for what God had done. Think of what God had already done for them. He put the plagues on the Egyptians but not on the Israelites. He opened the Red Sea for the Israelites but drowned the Egyptians in the same water. He provided a cloud by day and a fire by night. They saw his glory on the mountain yet did not reverence him. Yet, in spite of all these miraculous things they still provoked God.

Caleb along with Joshua had faith. They tried to stop the rebellion, but God had said enough is enough. We should never let miracles, signs, and wonders be the determining factor in our obedience. We should go with God when he says go!

We can learn from Caleb and Joshua. They had a different spirit and were rewarded for it. Is there a blessing being withheld from you? Check up on your murmuring and complaining. Be thankful for what God has done for you. Repent of a bad spirit and start praising him in your circumstances then watch things change. Do not be like the Israelites and miss out on your promised land. Do not provoke God.