

*signs* that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test *these ten times* and **have not obeyed my voice**,<sup>23</sup> shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And **none of those who despised me** shall see it.<sup>24</sup> **But my servant Caleb**, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it. [...and Joshua]

### The Importance of Turning Away from Sin

#### Key Idea:

Every complaint, every act of disobedience is a step closer to an evil, hardened heart of unbelief. Turn from your love of rebellion and cry out to Jesus for mercy!

### 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>11</sup> **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

<sup>1</sup> Anselm of Canterbury Quoted in Philip Schaff and David Schley Schaff, *History of the Christian Church* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910). Ritzema, E. (Ed.). (2012). *300 Quotations for Preachers*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

<sup>10</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 171). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. (p. 172)

Notes:

## In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#14 in Series] *The Journey of Evil Desires* – Numbers 11:1–14:45

Part 4, *Stubborn Rebellion* – Numbers 13-14

Sermon Outline – July 5, 2015

### Children's Sermon/Introduction

❖ Trust Jesus... (Trust Fall)

**John 16:33**

In the world you will have *tribulation*. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

❖ Next Life Hope...

❖ There is no halfway Trust: Either We Trust Him...

### General Idea:

When it comes right down to it we all want to be masters of our own destiny.

### BIG PICTURE: WHY WON'T ISRAEL OBEY GOD?

NUMBERS 1-10:10 – GETTING READY TO GO...

NUMBERS 10:11-36 – SETTING OUT FOR THE LAND, LED BY THE LORD

**THE JOURNEY OF REBELLION FROM SINAI TO KADESH (11–14)**

A. THREE COMPLAINTS (11–12)

1. COMPLAINTS ABOUT HARDSHIP (11:1-3) – **THEY CRAVED EASY**

2. COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD (11:4-35) – **THEY CRAVED BETTER FOOD**

3. MIRIAM AND AARON COMPLAIN ABOUT MOSES (12:1-16) – **THEY CRAVED GLORY**

B. **ISRAEL REJECTS THE PROMISED LAND (13–14) – THEY CRAVED SELF-RULE**

### Overview of Israel's Hardheartedness:

Israel refused to believe God was leading them for their good and so whatever they were commanded to do, they did the opposite.

*Evil Desire #4 Self-Rule (1 Cor. 10:6)*

Notes:

***Hold Fast to Your Faith to the End***

**Hebrews 3:12–14**

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you **an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.**<sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day... that none of you may be hardened by **the deceitfulness of sin.**<sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.**

## What were their Evil Hearts Lying to them About?

- ✓ If God loved me this wouldn't be so hard...
- ✓ If God loved me he would give me meat...
- ✓ If God loved me he would make sure I got proper credit for my service to him...
- ✓ God surely doesn't expect us to attack enemies that are stronger than we are!
- ✓ God surely does not expect us all to die in the wilderness!

## Believing to See... Not the Other way Around (13:28-4:10)

"I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order that I may understand; for of this I feel sure, that, if I did not believe, I would not understand."

– Anselm of Canterbury <sup>i</sup>

- Moses, Aaron, Joshua & Caleb vs. 10 Other Spies & The People

**The 10:** "...*but*, (Iain Duguid) the people who dwell in the land are strong..." <sup>1</sup>

**Caleb:** "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it."

**The 10:** "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are."

... *bad/evil report*; land devours...; giants/grasshoppers...

**The People:** "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!" <sup>3</sup>

Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

**Moses & Aaron:** Moses and Aaron *fell on their faces* before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel.

**Joshua & Caleb:** ...*tore their clothes* <sup>7</sup> and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup> *If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a*

<sup>1</sup> Archaeological explorations suggest that the walls of these cities were **thirty to fifty feet high** and **fifteen feet thick**.

Notes:

*land that flows with milk and honey.* <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them."

**The People:** Want to kill them...

- The Eyes of Unbelief...

- Explain to me... Fortifications? Giants?

"...the eye of faith recognizes that in this world, reality is not accurately measured whenever we are 'humanly speaking.'" <sup>ii</sup>

- The Eyes of Faith...

- If God rescued us from Egypt...
- If God has provided a way for us to draw near...
- If God can provide for us in the wilderness...
- If God is traveling with us in our camp...!

"Our unbelief is always fundamentally *irrational*, a sinful refusal to fear God, which results equally inevitably in a sinful fear of people and circumstances." (Bold mine) <sup>iii</sup>

## *Be Afraid of a Hard Heart*

### Hebrews 4:1–2

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, *let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.* <sup>2</sup> For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united **by faith with those who listened.**

### Israel Despises God! (14:11, 39-41; 22-24ff.)

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "*How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me*, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? (They fear men not God!) (They fear the punishment **not God!**)

<sup>40</sup> ... "Here we are. We will go up to the place that the Lord has promised, for we have sinned." <sup>41</sup> But Moses said, "Why now are you *transgressing the command of the Lord*, when that will not succeed?"

### A Generation Lost their Inheritance (14:22-24ff.)

<sup>22</sup> *none of the men who have seen my glory and my*

Notes: