

“Busy... At What?”

By The Sojourner



Are you busy? Does it seem as though there are not enough minutes in an hour? Distractions, distractions, distractions there always seem to be distractions. The day starts out with a semblance of a plan but soon turns to disarray!

Notes:

Ever feel like this? Ever live this? Well then it is time to take store of what is happen in a persons time. Look at the focus. If the focus is not on the stated purpose for a persons life then one of two things must happen either the focus must change back to the original direction or the direction must be changed to the new focus.

People build their lives in a direction, focused on that direction, and become frustrated in progressing toward their desired completion. If the desired completion is at odds with God's desires for a life only trouble will result.

The Apostle Paul brings this out in 1 Corinthians 3:10-21. Jesus talked of this same thing in building a house on sand or a rock. Paul stresses the need to be in tune with God's desires since the consequences, good or bad, are eternal!

The day is rapidly coming when each person must give an

account of how they focused and carried out the life they were given. How a person stays on track is so very important to the remainder of existence. A life must be build on an eternal foundation not a temporal foundation and God's blessing will be enjoyed now and through out eternity! Remember we must always focus on Christ!

2 Corinthians 3:11-15 ^{KJV}
11For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

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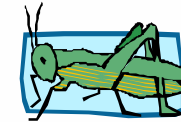
...with The Sojourner

“Grasshoppers Or Greatness” (Teaching Sketch)

Numbers 13:26-33, 14:1-9

By Mrs. Sojourner

Moses obeyed the commission God had given him^[1] and trusted in God and his covenant with his people Israel^[2]. Moses had to walk in faith to accomplish the commission God gave him.



Notes:

[1] Exodus 3:9-10

[2] Genesis 15:18-21

[3] Exodus 3:17

[4] Numbers 14:11

[5] Numbers 14:27-28

[6] Numbers 14:29-35

Moses and his people made it to the edge of the Promise Land, and per God's instructions, Moses sent 12 spies to check out this place they and their people have been believing for and dreaming of for centuries.

The Report

The 12 came back and reported that God's promised description of the land was true: **We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.** (Num. 13:27 NIV) God's promise was true! That's just what he promised!

Half The Promise

Sadly ten out of the 12 saw the contents of the Promise

Land and chose to believe only what they saw instead of mixing what they saw with faith. God promised them that the land flowed with milk and honey. This was true. He also promised them that he would give them the land^[3]. The ten saw what could be obstacles (violent people and giants) and promptly decided not to believe that part of God's promise. Actually, they believed only what they saw. Despite all of the miracles God performed to get them to the Promise Land they still chose to believe what they saw and not walk in faith. Their faithless belief extended beyond the condition of the Promise Land, it also encompassed their belief of themselves. These ten clearly said, “We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.” (vs.33) How many Christians today do not see themselves according to what God has called them and assume that everyone

Scripture:

Numbers 13:26-33, 14:1-9 (NIV)

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and...they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." 30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." 1 That night all the

Notes:

people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! 3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt." 5 Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

"Grasshoppers or Greatness" (Teaching Sketch)

Numbers 13:26-33, 14:1-9

else sees what they themselves see? They assume they see everything, including themselves correctly, even if what they see does not line up with the Word.

The Minority Whole

Joshua and Caleb were the only two that saw the obstacles and chose to believe the whole promise anyway.

Consequences of Doubt

The "Doubtful Ten" convinced the people that God and his promises were not great enough to conquer the people currently in the Promise Land. The result of their doubt and fear was that almost the all of Israel's adults fell into doubt and belief and experienced the following:

- God's Displeasure^[4]
- They got the disasters they said^[5]
- They never entered the Promise Land^[5]

Consequences of Faith

The "Faithful Two" were spared God's anger and the consequences the disobedient faced. They were also given the privilege of leading the children of the disobedient into a life of faith and God's fullness in the Promise Land.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

