

Numbers 13 - How Do You See Things?

What did He want them to see?

Num 13:1-33 NIV The LORD said to Moses, 2 "**Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites.** From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders." 3 So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

- God sent some **men** to explore - what **HE [God]** is giving - it is His GIFT to them
- This was not for His benefit...He KNEW what was there
- **What did He want THEM to see?**

We don't always SEE things HIS WAY- the way we SEE things has a huge impact on our lives

- The feeding of the 5000 (they couldn't see beyond their lack)
- Peter on the water (he SAW the waves)

1) He wanted them to see that HE is the Deliverer - [not WE]

16 These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

- Moses changed his name from Hoshea - which means **deliverer** to Joshua - which means **Jehovah-saved** - When the name Hoshea was called - the focus was the MAN - every time the name Joshua was called - the focus is turned to the LORD
- **Joshua - is Hebrew for Jesus** - Call him Jesus for He will save his people from their sin

2) He wanted them to see the lay of the land --- AND the giants that were there

17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. 18 **See what the land is like** and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) 21 **So they went up and explored** the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where **Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, lived.**

- The LORD wants us to see reality - and to know that HE is STILL deliverer (David and Goliath)
- Victory is not in denying giants exist - victory is in defeating them in the name of the LORD

3) He wanted them to see He is faithful to His promise

(Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. 24 That place was called the **Valley of Eshkol** because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. 26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There **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.***

He wanted them to see that He is faithful to His promise

- Exo 3:7-8 NIV The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So **I have come down** to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land **into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey**--the home of the **Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.**

LOOK AT THE FRUIT - it is exactly as He told them - a land flowing with milk and honey

Here comes the BUT....

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."

How do you see things?

- Some people see the POWER of the enemy --- others see the Greater POWER of God
- Some people see FORTIFIED cities --- others see their FUTURE home
- Some people see GIANTS --- others see GOD

When God sent men to explore - HE KNEW WHAT THEY WOULD FIND

- He was not sending them to understand the nature of the risk, so they could DECIDE whether or not they wanted to move forward
- These obstacles are nothing more than for the LORD to show His power and strength
- Their task was not to gather data to determine if they are able to take the land - that was decided by the LORD
- BUT --- that is what the did

The power of influence - helping others to SEE what you SEE

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.**"

Two opinions - both groups saw the same thing - but drew different conclusions

- They may be stronger than WE - but they are not stronger than HE
- But HE is the one who told us to go in
- One group had CERTAINTY - the other group felt INCAPABLE
- Which perspective will hold sway in the heart of the people?

How they saw things determined their destiny - stay tuned next week

Num 14:1-45 NIV **That night all the members 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 wilderness! 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.**"

- They were on the verge of going into the promised land - a land flowing with milk and honey
- **Yet they chose to see the perspective of unbelief**
- **They did not choose the perspective of God**

God's perspective "I am giving you this land" - PERIOD - by default every obstacle in the way will crumble

All they had to do was receive this as a gift

- The fact there were giants and walled cities were not at issue
- EVERYONE agreed the land was fertile and good, that its inhabitants were a powerful force to be reckoned with
- The key difference was the BUT -- it was in **How some chose to see things**
- A great tragedy is the powerful influence of unbelief

Because of their decision to SEE THINGS the way the 10 saw them - all the people MISSED God's purpose and best - ***all of them BUT 2*** - were left to die in the wilderness.

Only 2 people survived the wilderness to receive God's promise