

## Joshua Series The Inheritance of Caleb Joshua 14:6-15

### Introduction:

As you turn in your Bible to Joshua 14, I want to introduce you to the world's greatest technology. This is going to be the **greatest advancement** of technology in our day.

### **Typewriter; Macintosh Computer; Bag Mobile Phone; Motorola Razr**

Imagine if men like Steve Jobs would have said, "Okay, that's enough. We have the type writer, we can settle with that."

In the passage before us:

- **Chapters 1 -5** Joshua and Caleb **crossed over the Jordan** with God's people as God had promised.
- **In Chapters 6-12** They led many **great victories** like Jericho, Ai, the 5 kings of the Amorites. These were life changing moments in the lives of the children of Israel. In [Joshua 11:23](#) Joshua led another great victory further gaining more ground of the promised land. In all there were 31 kings defeated and there was rest in the land.
- The land is now being **distributed** to the tribes of Israel during **chapters 13-24**. They are receiving their inheritance as promised. Right here in the middle of that, in Chapter 14, Caleb puts a request in for Mount Horeb. Keep in mind this is the same place that the spies saw the giants and gave a report of unbelief in [Numbers 13-14](#).

Now Caleb could have simply sat back and settled for a little portion of the land with the rest of his tribe Judah, but he knew God had a bigger plan for his life.

### [Jeremiah 29:11](#)

*<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

The worldly want the **easy way out**. Caleb didn't. He knew this was going to be the hardest battle yet. That should be the attitude of every Christian.

What led to Caleb receiving this great inheritance?

**TT - The text give us three clues that help us know why God honored Caleb with this inheritance. (Read Text)**

## Clue #1

### 1. God honors your decision to do right when the majority were doing wrong - v. 7-9

<sup>7</sup> Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to espay out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: **but I wholly followed the Lord my God.**

<sup>9</sup> And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast **wholly followed the Lord my God.**

### [Numbers 13:26-30](#)

<sup>26</sup> And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. <sup>28</sup> Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

<sup>\*30</sup> And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

### A. Caleb followed the LORD fully

### [Numbers 14:22-24](#)

<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: <sup>24</sup> 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.

The phrase wholly followed the LORD is found **5 times in the Scriptures** and each one is a reference to Caleb

Can you imagine what a privilege it must be to have the LORD say that about your life? Grieving families often reflect on **what epitaph they will write on the headstone** of a loved one's grave or what poem or favorite Scripture to include in the bulletin. Here is the greatest record of a man's life: He wholly followed the LORD.

[Numbers 32:12](#)

Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they **have wholly followed the Lord.**

[Deuteronomy 1:36](#)

Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, **because he hath wholly followed the Lord.**

[Joshua 14:8](#)

Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I **wholly followed the Lord** my God.

[Joshua 14:9](#)

And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, **because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.**

[Joshua 14:14](#)

Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, **because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.**

**ILL** - Toward the end of the nineteenth century, **Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel** awoke one morning to **read his own obituary in the local newspaper:**

*“Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who died yesterday, devised a way for more people to be killed in a war than ever before, and he died a very rich man.”*

Actually, it was Alfred's older brother who had died; a newspaper reporter had bungled the epitaph.

But the account had a profound effect on Nobel. He decided he wanted to be known for something other than developing the means to kill people efficiently and for amassing a fortune in the process. So he initiated the Nobel Prize, the award for scientists and writers who foster peace.

Nobel said, “Every man ought to have the chance to correct his epitaph in midstream and write a new one.”

Few things will change us as much as looking at our life as though it is finished.<sup>1</sup>

**DL Moody** made his commitment, The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to Him. <sup>2</sup>

## B. Caleb disregarded the deceivers and doubters

Dave Ramsey is famous for saying, **everyone needs a BHAG** (Big Hairy Audacious Goal). This is something that there's no way you could have accomplished except God did it.

There will be people who may rise up against God's plan for your life. People will rise up against a BHAG but you have to let that simply be fuel for the fire. You can't let it stop you, intimidate you, or pressure you to give in. You need to disregard the deceivers and doubters and give God 100%.

Caleb was in the minority. Here's his response and then I want to show you what he was up against:

### [Numbers 14:6–9](#)

*<sup>6</sup> And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, **rent their clothes:** <sup>7</sup> And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. <sup>8</sup> If the **Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.** <sup>9</sup> Only rebel not ye against the Lord, **neither fear ye the people of the land;** for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and **the Lord is with us: fear them not.***

### [Numbers 13:30–33](#)

*<sup>30</sup> And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. <sup>31</sup> But the men that went up with him said, **We be not able** to go up against the people; for **they are stronger** than we. <sup>32</sup> And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. <sup>33</sup> And there **we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.***

*The fight against, "everyone else is doing it..."*

He and Joshua were the only two of the 12 spies

They were also the only two from that generation who cross over in to the promised land.

Christians will always be faced with the decision to do right or to go against the grain of culture.

Certainly, Caleb and Joshua saw the same obstacles as did the other 10 spies. But they maintained a perspective of seeing these obstacles through the lens of a great God who was faithful to His word and keeping His promises.

**Those who see the positive in every problem and those who see problems with every positive. We have to ask, what does God see.**

The first clue on why Caleb got this great inheritance was his decision to do right when the majority were doing wrong. The second clue in the text:

## **2. God honors your devotion to God in your later years - v. 6, 10-11**

Caleb was in the later years in his life. No one would have blamed him if he just sat back, relaxed and let the younger generation take it from here.

You may be in a **season where you think it's time to hang it up**. Most American's think that the "golden years" are supposed to be a match for carefree lifestyles, luxurious fishing and hunting clubs, unending cruises and RV trips, strolling through the idyllic settings while planning their next round of leisure activities. The problem with this idea is that only a small percentage of Americans actually make it to this imaginary paradise. Even further, this imaginary paradise leaves many more feeling empty, purposeless, lonely, unmotivated, unfulfilled, unhappy and complicated. So what can you do about this?

Caleb was 85 years old when he got his "second wind". He was ready to take on the biggest battle yet. We can see some of the goals of Calebs life in his later years.

### **A. Carefully look back at the past promises of God - v. 6**

*<sup>6</sup> Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, **Thou knowest** the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea.*

*<sup>10</sup> And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even **since the Lord spake this word unto Moses**, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. <sup>11</sup> As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.*

### [Numbers 14:24](#)

*<sup>24</sup> 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.*

Caleb didn't look back to the past to the point that it depressed him. He wasn't living in the past. He was simply observing and refreshing on what God had promised.

He look backwards **carefully**; around him **confidently**; and forward **courageously**

This wasn't a self-made plan that Caleb had come up with. This was a vision that came from God's self-revealed purposes.

This is lacking in a lot of Christians lives today and therefore has been substituted for other pursuits that falsely bear the same name.

[2 Peter 1:4](#)

*<sup>4</sup> Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

**B. Continually credit the LORD - v. 6 -**

*“The LORD said...” and in v. 10 “the LORD hath kept me alive”*

God was at the center of his life. One of the temptations we can face is forgetting that what we have accomplished was done in the power and strength of the Lord.

[James 1:17](#)

*<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

**C. Use your resources to serve the LORD - v. 11**

*<sup>11</sup> As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.*

“Disaster Relief, Volunteer ministry are ways we can give back to the Lord in our retirement years.

Church volunteers come to a place of “retirement” when, instead, they should be using that as a training opportunity to impart wisdom.

God honors your decision to do right when the majority were doing wrong; your devotion to Him in your later years and third,

### **3. God honors your desire to take the next mountain - v. 12-15**

*<sup>12</sup> Now therefore **give me this mountain**, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said. <sup>13</sup> And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. <sup>14</sup> Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel. <sup>15</sup> And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.*

He could easily have settled for what was, but he wanted what God had in store.

#### **A. Desire God's presence - v. 12**

[Psalm 37:4](#)

*<sup>4</sup> Delight thyself also in the Lord; And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

#### **B. Four giants that we need to have a desire to conquer in our lives:**

- **The Giant of Indifference**

*Give me this mountain - HE wanted it (personal)  
this mountain - he wanted the specific mountain, not just any*

- **The Giant of Careless Living**

Caleb continued to live a careful life devoted to the LORD. - v. 14

- **The Giant of Do Nothing**

Caleb could have done nothing and settled for the land they had. But this was the final unclaimed portion of the promised land.

**The Leaky Cabin** - parable from Small Church Essentials

A man goes to visit a friend who lives in an old cabin in the woods.

He finally arrives after a long trip of pouring down rain. He's soaking wet

Glad to get dry and out of the rain, he jumps inside to find that the cabin roof is leaking and there's water everywhere!

What's with all the buckets and rain water everywhere?

Oh that? I barely notice it, you get used to it after a while.

Why not fix it? I'd be glad to help.

Oh No, its way too dangerous to be out there on the roof in the rain, besides its dark. I'll do it later.

After a damp sleepless night of dripping sounds, tossing and turning, they wake up to a beautiful sun shinny day.

Hey buddy, let's eat some breakfast and get out there and get that roof repaired. Why, it's not leaking now.

- **The Giant of Faithlessness**

*as the LORD said -v. 12*

[James 2:18](#)

*<sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

Faith without works is dead

**ILL** - A man was **paddling a boat** taking two religious men across the river. The two men started debating about faith and works. After listening for some time the captain, also a Christian, spoke up. Men I can solve your debate pretty simply. In my hands are two paddles. One I'll call faith and the other works. If I row with only faith I'll go in circles. If I row with only works, I'll go in circles. If I'm going to get anywhere I've got to have both faith and works.

Caleb had faith but he also put feet to his faith. The 10 spies who brought the bad report didn't have faith!

**C. Desire a far greater place.**

The Christian has a better than Caleb who has won far greater victories and a more lasting inheritance. He is the object and content for our faith, His name is Jesus.

[1 Peter 1:4](#)

*<sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

[Hebrews 11:16](#)

*<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

**Closing:**

You can continue to live your life as it is and if you're not saved the end of the way thereof is death. If you are saved, you'll miss out on the blessings God has for you here and in heaven.

You can live a "type-writer life" or you can get busy for the LORD and see what He might do in your life next.

Dustin Logan  
Preached at:  
FBC Lambrook  
September 11, 2022  
Morning Worship

<sup>1</sup> Craig Brian Larson, *750 Engaging Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers & Writers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002), 278.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-25/world-has-yet-to-see.html>