

EVIL BAD REPORT

Scripture Reading: **Numbers 14:6-11**

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6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

7 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.

8 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.

9 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.

10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

11 And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

The background of the story.

Two men, Caleb and Joshua, brought the same facts as the others. What is the difference in their report?

The difference is in their interpretation of the facts because Caleb and Joshua included God.



The 10 people said, '**we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes. And we looked the same to them.**'

The core meaning here is a mindset of fear, inferiority, and unbelief. It is how they see themselves. They see themselves as grasshopper.

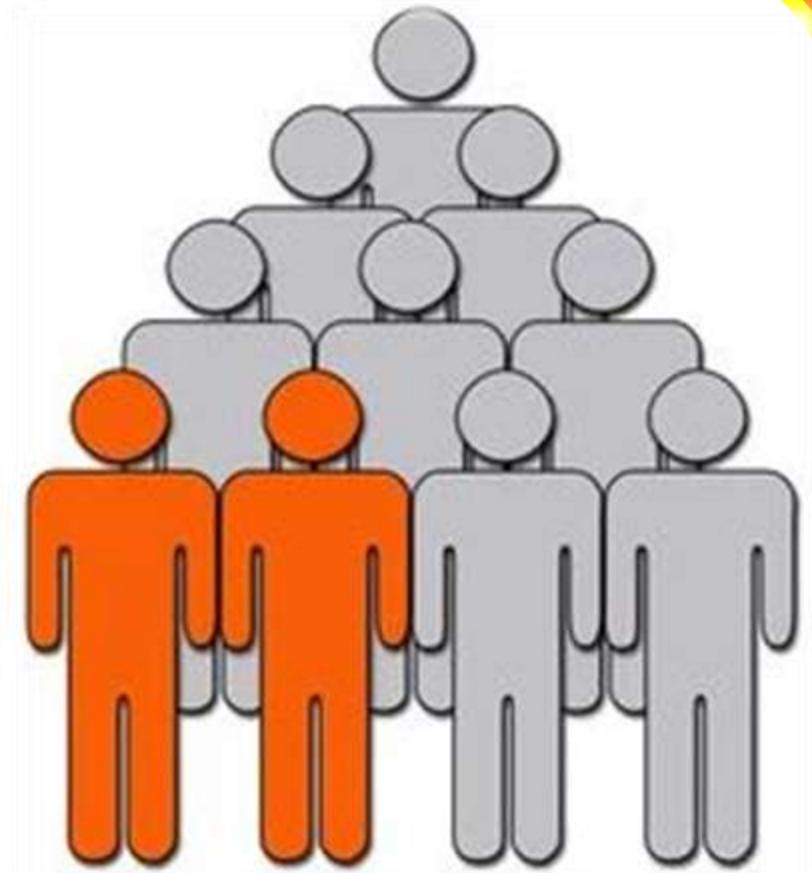
Giants here represent overwhelming realities in everyday life. Giants here symbolize:

- **Financial pressure**
- **Health crisis**
- **Strong enemies**
- **Hostile culture**
- **Seemingly impossible assignments**

The majority report often is an evil bad report. It is ten people against 2 people. It is **83%** as against **17%**.

Joshua, the son of Nun and Caleb, the son of Jephunneh are the minority report holder.

This passage of scripture speaks very loudly in our time, even in the culture of the church. In today's context, it is very real and everyday ways. What can we learn?



1

WHEN FACTS
ARE REAL
BUT GOD
IS LEFT OUT

The giants were real. The cities were fortified. That wasn't a lie. Look at everyday example:

- **My finances really are tight**
- **My health issue is serious**
- **My family situation is complicated**
- **The culture of our society is hostile to Christian Faith**

All these points are true. But the bad evil report stops here. Joshua and Caleb did not deny reality. But they included God in it. Faith doesn't ignore facts; faith refuses to exclude God.

Let us talk about the first everyday example: My finances really are tight.

A. My finances are tight.



When money is tight, obey in small things.

- Continue in integrity, pay your tithes, Be generous in spirit, spend only on essentials.

Speak the Word aloud and, in our mind, aloud.

- The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want (lack)
- God has brought us thus far. He will continue with us in our future walk
- This bad times, bad season will not define us. God defines us.

The second everyday real example: health issues.

Money problems are stressful, but health issues feel personal – like your body is turning against you.



Let us talk about health issues in a very real, everyday way. Health struggles often carry hidden fears:

- **What if this gets worse?**
- **What if I don't recover?**
- **Why is this happening to me?**
- **Am I still useful?**

Joshua and Caleb did not pretend there were no giants. Faith starts with truthful acknowledgment, not denial. God is not threatened by your honest fear. So, you ask, **'Pastor what must I do?'**

- **Go for the check ups**
- **Take the medication as prescribed**
- **Rest when your body demands it**
- **Ask questions, understand your condition.**

Illness is not proof of your weak faith. Do not be like the ten spies with evil bad report. Watch out for thoughts like:

- **This will never change**
- **I'm a burden**
- **God is silent.**
- **I will die in the wilderness**
- **This is the end**

In sickness, replace evil bad report with faith report:

- **God is still present**
- **This does not define me**
- **I am more than my diagnosis**

Family issues that is complicated.

Family issues are often the hardest, because you cannot clock out of them. And you cannot fix the people you love.

Family pain often comes with guilt:

- **Maybe I did something wrong**
- **If I were godlier, this would not be happening**

Scripture is very honest when it comes to families. Joseph's family was broken. David's family was messy. Jesus' own family misunderstood Him.

Culture that is hostile to faith.

A culture hostile to faith does not usually shout, **'Reject God.'** It quietly pressures you to stay silent, blend in, or soften truth.

Jesus does not want **secret disciples**; He wants **beloved witnesses**. We must face the fact that our culture is hostile to God, Jesus, and faith. Most hostility today does not come through violence. It comes through tone. Look at the everyday examples:

- Faith is treated as '**private**,' never public
- Biblical convictions are called '**outdated**' or '**harmful**'
- You are fine believing – **just don't live it visibly.**

And the hostility often sounds like common sense, and even considered wisdom. Joshua and Caleb were almost stoned for speaking faith. It is the same today. Today's stones look like:

- Mockery or subtle ridicule
- Career limitations
- Being labeled '**extreme**,' '**intolerant**,' or '**naïve**.'
- Social exclusion.

God never promise comfort. He promised His presence. So how do we live in such culture? Faith is not constant arguing. Courage is not online battles. It is quiet integrity at work. Refusing to lie even when it is expected. Living differently without announcing it. And Speaking when God prompts and not react emotionally. Joshua and Caleb did not shout insults. They spoke truth once clearly.

Daniel in Babylon is faith without provocation.

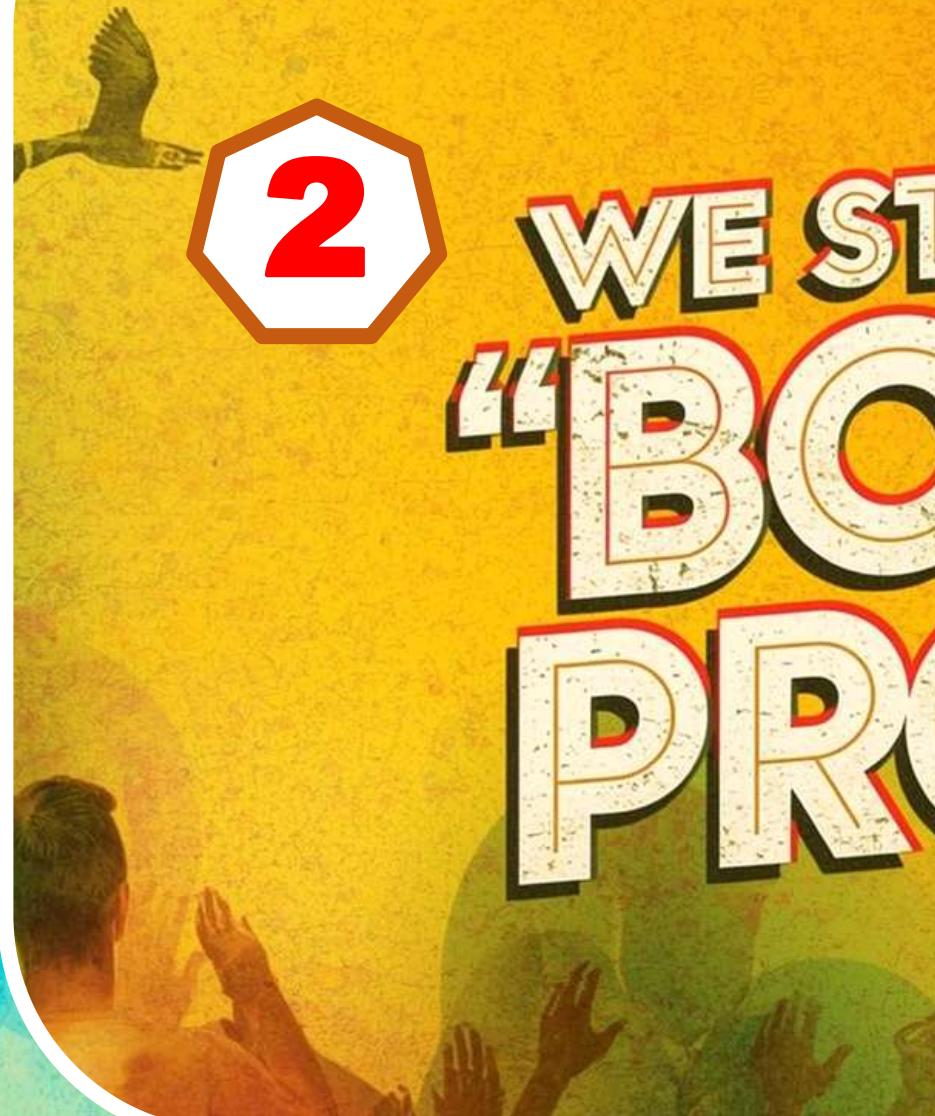
Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego are examples of courage without hatred.

Esther is wisdom without compromise.

Joseph lived in a culture with integrity under pressure. Joseph's faith is refusing sexual sin when no one is watching.

2

WE STAND AT THE
“BORDER ^{OF}
PROMISE”



Many times, we forgot that we are standing at the border of promise. Just like Israel, we often stand at the edge of what God has promised. Even in this church we will have **83%** that do not believe but **17%** that believed. God has spoken clearly that we are at the border of the Promises that God has for this church:

- **A new season**
- **A calling**
- **Obedience that costs something**
- **Stepping out in faith (ministry, family, integrity, forgiveness)**

The land is still good but it still looks challenging. The test is not whether God's promises is good, but whether we trust Him enough to step forward. **83%** will say:

- **It is not realistic**
- **Times are different now**
- **You'll fail**
- **Others tried and didn't' make it**

These voices often use facts, but they leave out God.

They didn't reject God with idols in that moment - they reject Him by:

- **Complaining**
- **Refusing to move forward**
- **Choosing fear over trust.**

Unbelief is rebellion when God has already spoken.

God said this about Caleb, '**He has a different spirit.**' What spirit is God talking about?

- **Trusting God in uncertainty**
- **Obedience even when outcomes aren't guaranteed.**
- **Courage rooted in God's presence, not self-confidence.**

Faith doesn't say, '**we are strong.**' Faith says '**The LORD is with us.**'

God will intervene when your faith is threatened.
Understand this truth:

- **God defends truth**
- **God honors faith**
- **God takes unbelief seriously**

God honors faith is not just a nice phrase. It is a biblical principle that runs through the whole Old and New Testaments.

Now faith is the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith is not passive. Faith is active obedience rooted in trust. That is what God mean by Joshua and Caleb have a different spirit. They have faith spirit.

Put it into everyday life. God honors faith in everyday life

- **Peace in uncertainty. Even if the situation doesn't change immediately, faith gives calm**
- **Direction in confusion: Faith opens clarity where logic fails**
- **Strength for obedience. Faith gives courage to do what is right, even under pressure**

➤ **Fruits of trust (faith). Relationships, opportunities, and breakthroughs appear when God sees hearts fully trusting Him**

In conclusion, faith is the heart of the Gospel, and everything about faith points to Christ. He is both the object of our faith and the perfect example of it. God send His Son Jesus to us. He is the perfect example of faith when it comes to trust in God. Yet despite His perfect faith, He was abandoned by God at the Cross.

Why?

Because of our unbelief and faithlessness and sin. So that when Jesus was resurrected. We can look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. When Jesus died on the cross, faith is resurrected in us when we believe. You can have faith. Just a small mustard seed of faith is enough. Because of Jesus' resurrection, our faith begins and ends with Jesus. Just like Joshua and Caleb trusted God's promise about Canaan, we trust Jesus' promises about salvation, guidance, deliverance, provision and protection and facing everyday giants.

Faith in Christ is active reliance on Him, not just hopeful or wishful thinking. Faith is trusting that Jesus is bigger than any giant in your life – fear, sickness, family tension, financial lack, or hostile culture. Our faith pleases God because it points to His Son. Just like God honors Caleb and Joshua for trusting Him, God honors faith that trusts Christ's work on the cross, not just human effort. To put it correctly the 13%, have a different spirit. They have faith. What about you?

