

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 26, 2020

Give Me The Mountain

Pastor Temple, 10:30am

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on *Don't Miss Him*, 1 Peter 1:3-9?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Question: What do you think would keep life from becoming boring in the various seasons of life?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Joshua 14:6-14. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

⁶ Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. ⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, ⁸ but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. ⁹ So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.'

¹⁰ "Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. ¹² Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said." ¹³ Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. ¹⁴ So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Background Info- Numbers chapters 13 and 14 tell the story of Caleb and Joshua and the other tribal representatives exploring the land the Lord had promised to them. Only Caleb and Joshua offered a positive view of God's promise to be with them and give them favor to be able to take the land over from the powerful enemies who lived there. Verses 6 and 9 above refer to Numbers 14:24 and 14:30 and Deuteronomy 1:35-39 in which the promise is given to Caleb and Joshua that, unlike the other

naysayers, they would one day be able to enter the promised land and their descendants possess the land that they had walked.

- What seemed to have won out over the faith and optimism of Caleb and Joshua in the short-term in the faith of the community as a whole (verses 7-8)?
- How does God seem to notice and respond to both the faith of individuals and of the faith of the community as a whole here? How do they intertwine practically speaking in the short-term and long-term?
- How long had Caleb waited for God's promise to be fulfilled (vs 10)?
- How do verses 11-12 show that Caleb had not changed or grown bitter over time but rather had kept the strong faith and optimism that he had as a younger man?
- How is Caleb's humility apparent in verse 10 and his boldness in view in verses 11-12?
- How do you see humility and boldness at work in the life of a believer?
- The meaning of the name Caleb is kal-"whole" and lev-"heart." Where do we find the words wholehearted in the verses above and what do you take them to mean?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- At a much later time than the days of Caleb, the Israelites were driven from the promised land into Babylon in the exile because of their unfaithfulness to God in worshipping other Gods. Would a volunteer please read aloud Jeremiah 24:4-7 and Jeremiah 32:37-41.
- How was the trouble Israel found herself in again the result of half-hearted faith?
- How are God's solutions conveyed in Jer. 24:7 and 32:39-40?
- How can these promises bring comfort to those experiencing conviction over previous personal failings or poor choices?
- Proverbs 4:23 says "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." How does a believer guard their heart?
- Regardless of our age, how does the choices of our tomorrows depend on how we tend our hearts today?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How is God calling you to be a hero this week like Caleb, who challenged the half-hearted faith of others with his inspiring example of wholehearted faith?
- What are some examples of how wholehearted faith in the Lord necessarily means not choosing particular things today?
- How can people today not grow bitter when hopes and dreams and promises seem to be deferred?
- Pastor Temple shared the story of man who carried a returned letter most of his life in his wallet which later was a key to their reunion and marriage much later in life in a nursing home. What long-term dreams are we daring to hold onto because of our faith in God for whom nothing is impossible?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- What does wholehearted faith look like throughout all the various seasons of life? What does it look like for you this week with the season of life that you are in?
- Just before closing in prayer, would a volunteer please read aloud- Psalm 86:11.
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the concerns shared earlier in the meeting