

signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test *these ten times* and **have not obeyed my voice**,²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And **none of those who despised me** shall see it.²⁴ **But my servant Caleb**, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it. [...and Joshua]

The Importance of Turning Away from Sin

Key Idea:

Every complaint, every act of disobedience is a step closer to an evil, hardened heart of unbelief. Turn from your love of rebellion and cry out to Jesus for mercy!

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

¹ Anselm of Canterbury Quoted in Philip Schaff and David Schley Schaff, *History of the Christian Church* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910). Ritzema, E. (Ed.). (2012). *300 Quotations for Preachers*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

¹⁰ Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 171). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

¹¹ Ibid. (p. 172)

Notes:

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#14 in Series] *The Journey of Evil Desires* – Numbers 11:1–14:45

Part 4, *Stubborn Rebellion* – Numbers 13-14

Sermon Outline – July 5, 2015

Children's Sermon/Introduction

❖ Trust Jesus... (Trust Fall)

John 16:33

In the world you will have *tribulation*. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

❖ Next Life Hope...

❖ There is no halfway Trust: Either We Trust Him...

General Idea:

When it comes right down to it we all want to be masters of our own destiny.

BIG PICTURE: WHY WON'T ISRAEL OBEY GOD?

NUMBERS 1-10:10 – GETTING READY TO GO...

NUMBERS 10:11-36 – SETTING OUT FOR THE LAND, LED BY THE LORD

THE JOURNEY OF REBELLION FROM SINAI TO KADESH (11–14)

A. THREE COMPLAINTS (11–12)

1. COMPLAINTS ABOUT HARDSHIP (11:1-3) – **THEY CRAVED EASY**

2. COMPLAINTS ABOUT FOOD (11:4-35) – **THEY CRAVED BETTER FOOD**

3. MIRIAM AND AARON COMPLAIN ABOUT MOSES (12:1-16) – **THEY CRAVED GLORY**

B. **ISRAEL REJECTS THE PROMISED LAND (13–14) – THEY CRAVED SELF-RULE**

Overview of Israel's Hardheartedness:

Israel refused to believe God was leading them for their good and so whatever they were commanded to do, they did the opposite.

Evil Desire #4 Self-Rule (1 Cor. 10:6)

Notes:

Hold Fast to Your Faith to the End

Hebrews 3:12–14

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you ***an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.***¹³ But exhort one another every day... that none of you may be hardened by ***the deceitfulness of sin.***¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, ***if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.***

What were their Evil Hearts Lying to them About?

- ✓ If God loved me this wouldn't be so hard...
- ✓ If God loved me he would give me meat...
- ✓ If God loved me he would make sure I got proper credit for my service to him...
- ✓ God surely doesn't expect us to attack enemies that are stronger than we are!
- ✓ God surely does not expect us all to die in the wilderness!

Believing to See... Not the Other way Around (13:28-4:10)

"I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order that I may understand; for of this I feel sure, that, if I did not believe, I would not understand."

– Anselm of Canterbury ⁱ

- Moses, Aaron, Joshua & Caleb vs. 10 Other Spies & The People

The 10: "...*but*, (Iain Duguid) the people who dwell in the land are strong..." ¹

Caleb: "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it."

The 10: "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are."

... *bad/evil report*; land devours...; giants/grasshoppers...

The People: "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!" ³

Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Moses & Aaron: Moses and Aaron *fell on their faces* before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel.

Joshua & Caleb: ...*tore their clothes* ⁷ and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ *If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a*

¹ Archaeological explorations suggest that the walls of these cities were **thirty to fifty feet high** and **fifteen feet thick**.

Notes:

land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And *do not fear the people of the land*, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; *do not fear them.*"

The People: Want to kill them...

- The Eyes of Unbelief...

- Explain to me... Fortifications? Giants?

"...the eye of faith recognizes that in this world, reality is not accurately measured whenever we are 'humanly speaking.'" ⁱⁱ

- The Eyes of Faith...

- If God rescued us from Egypt...
- If God has provided a way for us to draw near...
- If God can provide for us in the wilderness...
- If God is traveling with us in our camp...!

"Our unbelief is always fundamentally *irrational*, a sinful refusal to fear God, which results equally inevitably in a sinful fear of people and circumstances." (Bold mine) ⁱⁱⁱ

Be Afraid of a Hard Heart

Hebrews 4:1–2

¹ Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, *let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.* ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united **by faith with those who listened.**

Israel Despises God! (14:11, 39-41; 22-24ff.)

¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "*How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me*, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? (They fear men not God!) (They fear the punishment **not God!**)

⁴⁰ ... "Here we are. We will go up to the place that the Lord has promised, for we have sinned." ⁴¹ But Moses said, "Why now are you *transgressing the command of the Lord*, when that will not succeed?"

A Generation Lost their Inheritance (14:22-24ff.)

²² *none of the men who have seen my glory and my*

Notes: