

A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

Message from Ross Monk
Itinerant speaker
My Father's house, New Zealand
email: andross@fastmail.fm
web: myfathershouse.co.nz



Mark 3:17

Here we have 2 guys that are named from their birth as James and John but then get renamed by Jesus to 'Boanerges'.

Their new name means: *SONS OF THUNDER*

Names were often given to signify some obvious or prophetic characteristic of a person.

Examples: Abram becomes Abraham
 Jacob becomes Israel
 Simon Bar-Jonah becomes Peter
 Gideon becomes '*A mighty man of valour*'

JESUS PROBABLY RE-NAMED THESE GUYS BECAUSE THEIR NEW NAME SIGNIFIED SOME HIGHLY REGARDED TRAIT THAT THEY BOTH HAD.

Perhaps they got renamed "*Sons of Thunder*" for these reasons:

- They were powerful and imposing - as opposed to weak and indifferent.
- Maybe they stood out as those with a breakthrough passion.
- Perhaps they were men of great conviction.
- Perhaps they were as compelling as the thunder is with its imposing noise when it captures everyone's attention whilst confirming the lightning.

Whatever it was, Jesus spoke of them as different.

NOW IN: **Numbers 14:24** it talks about 2 other men.

Their names are Joshua and Caleb.
We could say that they were unique in their day.
Certainly different.

IN FACT THE BIBLE SAYS: "They had a different spirit in them."

IF I COULD DESCRIBE TO YOU THE WORD "DIFFERENT" in the context of this scripture, it would be this way:

1. Not the same. Read **Numbers 32:11-12**.
2. Certainly distinctive, focused, certainly non-compromising.
3. Those who stood out in a crowd as bold and daring.
4. Certainly the non-conformist of their day.

WHAT WE SEE HERE IN Numbers 14:24 IS THIS:

GOD HAD A REWARD FOR THESE GUYS FOR DARING TO BE DIFFERENT.

HERE IT IS

- **When they heard the voice of God, they dared to stay focused in the face of negative circumstances.**
- **God rewards them by saying in vs24 *'I will bring them into the land.'***
- **Also, *"His descendants would inherit it."***
- **This is the reward of faith.**

THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE THAT STAND OUT IN THE SCRIPTURES THAT ARE LIKE THIS:

"DIFFERENT"

They are those who hear the voice of God and believe it and act on it.

- **That is exactly what we are called to be.**
- **I Peter 2:9 declares that we are *"A peculiar people."***

I WANT YOU TO NOTE THE REWARD THAT GOD HAS FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS A DIFFERENT SPIRIT and "*who wholly follows the Lord.*"

TEXT: **Joshua 14:6**- don't forget that this is 40 years later, thus proving that God does reward faithfulness.

I want you to note the distinctive responses and rewards that are mentioned here regarding Caleb.

1. **vs6&12 A DIFFERENT SPIRITED PERSON IS VERY FOCUSED ON GOD PROMISES ... NOT PROBLEMS:**

In other words, he or she is a possessor of promises.

I want you to note in **vs7** the part right confession plays!

This person keeps reminding God of what He has caused them to believe through the promises He has given them.

This person knows that promises are greater than problems.

Numbers 14:1- shows that when the camp was full of problem focused people, Caleb & Joshua were full of promises.

You need a promise to have real faith.

Numbers 13:2 shows that the majority forgot the promise that was given by God to all of them and not just to Joshua and Caleb.

If you do not stand on promises, it won't be long before you will get full of fear and get talked out of what God is trying to talk you into.

2. **vs8 IF YOU WANT TO BE DIFFERENT, YOU WILL HAVE TO KEEP YOURSELF FREE FROM THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF NEGATIVITY:**

Numbers 14:3 *"Lost courage"*

Discouragement is a powerful tool used by satan.

The thing that made Caleb different is found in this statement, *"But I wholly followed the Lord my God."*

Note in **Joshua chapter 1** that Joshua is exhorted by God to remain courageous and not fall victim to fear and unbelief.

3. **vs9 A DIFFERENT SPIRITED PERSON NEVER GIVES UP HIS OR HER DESIRE TO POSSESS KINGDOMS NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES, BUT FOR OTHER GENERATIONS:**

"Yours and your children's forever"

Passionate people get prized possessions. They build for future generations.

Even Moses testified to Joshua's and Caleb's whole-hearted obedience.

Jesus sees our attitude, expectation and desires to respond to Him and His word, and rewards us the same way that He did here with Caleb.

4. **vs10 A DIFFERENT SPIRITED PERSON RELIES TOTALLY UPON GODS FAITHFULNESS ALL HIS DAYS:**

Note his cry: *"Kept me alive and well as He said."* Caleb did not say that he was just surviving or just existing right up to this point; no, he is *"alive and well."*

Maybe we can learn from Caleb that, if we want to be vital and well right through our lives; then we will have to keep Gods promises alive like he did.

YOU DONT GET TO HIS AGE STILL HAVING SUCH PASSION WITHOUT PROVING THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL.

We can be sure that Caleb was standing on God's promises every day and boldly claiming them.

5. **vs10 A DIFFERENT SPIRITED PERSON IS A WINNER ... NOT A WANDERER:**

"They wandered in the wilderness"

Sadly, this is what is said of the majority of the others who lost their lives and had their destinies cut short because they did not believe God.

Don't forget that they had received the same promise as did Joshua and Caleb.

Winner people don't just age, they live to possess new territories.

IT IS promises claimed that keep you from wandering.

While the others were wandering, they were winning.

Ps 27:13 *"I would have lost heart unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."*

6. **vs11 A DIFFERENT SPIRITED PERSON CONFESSES STRENGTH,NOT WEAKNESS:**

vs 11 *"Has kept me strong"*

Ps 46:1 *"God is my refuge and strength"*

If you are consumed with a 'cause' in your life to see God's promises being fulfilled for you, and you have a passion to do something for the Lord, strength will come to help you fulfil it.

Sadly some people just talk weakness all the time and then wonder why they are defeated and powerless.

7. **vs11 A DIFFERENT SPIRITED PERSON IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER VICTORY:**

THEY ARE NOT AFRAID TO WAR TO WIN:

WOW!!! For 45years Caleb had kept this victory in his heart and mouth in spite of all that he saw happening to his friends and mates as they died off.

He was not going to be robbed at the last minute.

If you have a cause to conquer, you will have courage to keep having victories.

Of course it is true, there will always be an enemy to oppose you, but remember, an uncontested enemy will conquer you.

A major part of what we become and what we get in this life is won in the heavenly realms: **Eph 6:10.**

It is about where you are standing and what you are standing for and what you are standing against that makes you a winner or overcomer in this life.

8. **vs12 & 14 THESE VERSES TELL US WHAT WILL KEEP US DIFFERENT IN DIFFICULT DAYS:**

IT IS THE PASSIONATE DESIRE FOR ANOTHER MOUNTAIN TO CONQUER:

Even if you are 85 years old, you can still be claiming for yourself and for someone else.

It is this kind of spirit that gets the attention of Almighty God. It is called bold faith and God has promised to bless the person who has this.

The mountain place that Caleb wanted is called "*Hebron*"

The meaning of the name Hebron is: "*fellowship with God*".

No Christian can live without this mountain. In fact, if you don't possess this mountain and come to this mountain every day, every other mountain will dominate you.

You have to start every day at this mountain.

But remember, this mountain used belong to a giant that Caleb first had to conquer.

13:1 states: "*There remains very much land yet to be possessed.*"

You see, when you have a possessing attitude, then you will get up every day on your Hebron and declare: "Father God. *Yet more land to possess.*"

9. 15:13-19 LASTLY, THIS KIND OF PERSON PRODUCES OFFSPRING JUST LIKE THEMSELVES:

Caleb's daughter Achsah, was just like him. She is a possessor of promises

Caleb reproduced offspring just like himself.

In vs17 Caleb even made his son in-law to be, who turned out to be Othniel, prove his worthiness to have his daughter

by showing his boldness to possess Kirjathsepher. This was the place of giants, but what are giants in comparison to God?

Othniel took the challenge and got Caleb's daughter as wife.

In vs18 she gets moved to ask her father for more blessing.

Last year I felt God challenging me to climb to the top of the highest mountain in the North Island of New Zealand to proclaim revival over this nation.

It was more than I felt capable of doing but I knew that there was a lesson in it.

My journey to the top of the mountain was not just to conquer a mountain ... but to prove that I can have what God wants to give me.

It was the challenge to a greater level in God's purposes.

It was to enforce into my spirit that, regardless of my age, God wants me to claim the entirety of all that He wants me to be, and all that I could ever hope to see.

It was the challenge to be different and not be denied.

To be a winner in this life and not a wanderer.

Joshua and Caleb heard the voice of God and that was the factor of difference between them and the others.

One will win ... the other will wander.