

Introduction

1. The burning bush, it's where all got started
2. A fearful Moses was given a promise, twice
3. That God had heard the cries of the people. A people oppressed and outnumbered in strength. And that God, would bring them up out of where they were into a good and spacious land, bring them out of captivity, into a land flowing with milk and honey - a land where Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites and all the ites you can imagine were living in.
4. But to go to that land, they would need to walk, they would go through many years in the wilderness.
5. The land wouldn't land in front of them. They would need to turn faith into action. And walk.
6. God would take them by their hand and walk together, through the wilderness, through the struggles, through the fears, through the loneliness of the desert, out of captivity, walking together, God by their side, through ups and downs, walking towards the promise.
7. Already given on to them

Transition

1. But now, 40 years later crossing the wilderness, the land is right before them, will they take the next step?

Context

1. Sisters and brothers, the passage tells us of a story where twelve leaders. Leaders with insight. Walked into a situation where they were outnumbered.
2. They were sent by Moses to spy on this "good and spacious land flowing with milk and honey", that God promised Moses forty years earlier.
3. They spied the land, and brought a huge grape to show how prosperous the land was. Two people carried it. That's a big grape.

The Message

1. The passage highlights two different perspectives out of this group of spies that returned to report what they saw. They all saw the same sights, the same grapes, the inhabitants, the same land and the same cities
2. Ten out of the twelve highlighted the threat. The numerous, powerful, strong, tall people. Their fortified walls. The danger. The bad news. The fear. The threat on the horizon.
3. Only two out of the twelve spies highlight the delicious grape. The promised outcome. The freedom out of the wilderness. Yes there were obstacles. But yes God's goodness and faithfulness would walk with them to face the giants together.
4. Ten out of the twelve are overcome by fear.
 - a. They start spreading bad reports.
 - b. Telling the people of Israel will never make it.
 - c. Telling the people of Israel that they are too weak, like little grasshoppers

- d. Overcome by fear, they start lying saying that the land itself. The land that God called "a good and spacious land", was an evil land.
5. One out of the twelve. Caleb. Outnumbered. Speaks up.
 - a. Outnumbered, but we are alright
 - b. Outnumbered, but we wont stagnate in the wilderness we gonna face our giants into the promised land
 - c. Outnumbered, but we believe God's word is true
 - d. With God by our side, we can face our giants
6. There might be something in our lives, that makes us think we are disqualified
 - a. Although the great grapes are right in front of us, a statistic tells us we wont get it. We wont make it
 - b. Facts and odds might be against us
 - c. But will we settle and stagnate in the wilderness, or go into the promised land?
 - d. Things might make us feel disqualified
 - e. Perhaps didn't finish school
 - f. Perhaps we don't have the right degree
 - g. Perhaps we don't speak the language right
 - h. Perhaps we come from a broken home
 - i. Perhaps we tell ourselves we are not good enough
 - j. Perhaps our emotions are shattered by the giants in our lives
 - k. We all got some reason, some fact, some statistic, some background, a reason to stagnate. To feel outnumbered
 - l. A reason not to face our giants.
 - m. But we are not alone in this fight. God stands by our side in our doubts and fears.
 - n. Just like God called a fearful Moses by the burning bush as the people of Israel were facing their giants in Egypt.
7. In a way, we all have felt like the 10 spies. Felt outnumbered. Lacking the strength and the will to get out of our wilderness.
8. But just as God walked with the people of Israel in their wilderness, God would continue to walk with the people to face their giants.
9. Not by their own strength. But by faith in God's goodness and grace.
10. Who are the Calebs in your life? That voice that continuously tells us not to be paralyzed in our moments of wilderness.
11. A Caleb that tells us to stand up when we fall, to love when we're hurt, to face our giants when we feel weak.
12. How many times have I been like the 10 spies and quieted the Calebs around me cause I felt too overwhelmed by my wilderness
13. And how many times have I seen Caleb speak up to me through the lives of others.
 - a. Through acts of love and kindness
 - b. People who gave me courage when I was weak
 - c. Acts of kindness in unexpected moments
 - d. In God's community
 - e. How may we in a way be Caleb to someon else's life?

- f. We might not have much, but how can we be that one voice of courage and love to those around us
- g. Those facing giants, those in the wilderness
- h. Outnumbered, Jesus used 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to feed a multitude.
- i. Used Moses, who couldn't speak in public to guide the people through the wilderness
- j. Used an outnumbered woman, Rosa Parks, to sit in the bus and inspire a whole nation to face their giants and fight for equality
- k. With God by our side, we can walk together through the wilderness, we can face our giants into the promised land, we can hear Calebs voice, reminding us that we are no alone.
- l. Amen