



September 16, 2012

FGTG #3:

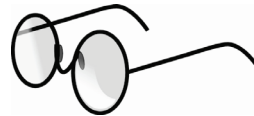
GIANTS WHO GUARD THE GRAPES
COMPLAINING BECAUSE OF OBSTACLES
Numbers 13:1-33

Sermon Outline

1. The Command and Mission to Survey the "Promised Land" (v. 1-20)
2. The Survey: An Abundant Land of God's Blessings (v. 21-25)
3. Perspective 1: There are Giants Who Guard the Grapes (v.26-29)
4. Perspective 2: We have a God Mightier than the Giants (v.30)
5. Rally Cry: "We are not Able" vs. "Our God is Able" (v. 31-33)

Application Question

Do you look through the eyes of OBSTACLES or do you look through the eyes of BLESSINGS?



Discussion Questions

1. It was the Israelites who actually asked to spy on the Promised Land (c.f. Deuteronomy 1:22), though they did not need to do it because God had already promised and affirmed that He would give them the land. What does this tell us about the Israelites? How does it reflect their level of faith in God? How about you? What promise of God have you claimed and yet you still wanted your own way instead of trusting Him?
2. God allowed them to spy on the Promised Land. Their mission was to determine the land and give a report, but not to decide whether to go because that was not their decision to make. After all, God had given them the land already. Discuss what they had seen after 40 days of surveying the land (v. 21-29).
3. Have you ever experienced seeing God's abundant blessings in your life? How did you handle it? How did it draw you closer to Him? Did you recognize those blessings as from Him without reservations?
4. Ten of the spies recognized that the land was abundant and flowing with milk and honey. Did it stop them from questioning God's will and promise that the land belonged to them? Why do you think so? Discuss the quote, "The only difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is the way you use them." Discuss it in the context of the story and in your own life. Do you see obstacles as opportunities for God to be glorified and for you to grow in your relationship with Him?
5. How do you view God? List some of His attributes and characteristics. What does the Bible tell us about God? How does what you know about God affect how you live out your life? How does our personal view of God affect our walk with Him?
6. What can we learn from the response, attitude and focus of Caleb and Joshua? How is their perspective different from the other 10 spies? If you were in their shoes, how do you think you would react to the fact that "the grapes were being guarded by the giants." How could this be true in our context, letting go of His blessings because of intimidating "giants" around us?
7. Share any experience that the Lord has proven to you that He is mightier than the giants (v 30), that He is able to overcome the impossible. How did it strengthen your faith?

Part of the Sermon Series
From Grumbling to Gratitude
By Rev. Stephen Tan