

Breaking the cycle: Shifting your perspective

Numbers 14:20-25 NET

14:20 Then the Lord said, “I have forgiven them as you asked. 14:21 But truly, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. 14:22 For all the people have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have tempted me now these ten times, and have not obeyed me, 14:23 they will by no means see the land that I swore to their fathers, nor will any of them who despised me see it. 14:24 Only my servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has followed me fully—I will bring him into the land where he had gone, and his descendants will possess it. 14:25 (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites were living in the valleys.) Tomorrow, turn and journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea.” [\[1\]](#)

Introduction.

For the past couple of weeks, I have been speaking about Developing a Kingdom Mindset. Here we learned that we all have been trained in how to think. If we think about it, much of our mindset comes from a cyclical way of thinking. This cycle is a mindset that has been passed from one generation to another. Whether it is from our parenting, or how we have been parented in our upbringing, to the exposure we have had that has come from the community of people we've been around, and even the culture we choose to associate with. Although we may have some positive mindsets as well, a negative cyclical mindset can keep us from possessing the promises God has promised us, causing us to die in the wilderness instead of crossing over into the promised land.

For many of us, we all have had cycles in our lives. Many of these cycles we have may have been subconscious. We did not know we had it. Some of these cycles could be an addiction. For most of us, we may automatically think of addiction to drugs, pornography, etc., But some of us may be addicted to other things like unnecessary drama, people's approval, popularity, etc. We may have a cycle of always wanting to be in control. Whatever the cycle may be in our lives, it has caused us to develop a perspective that causes us to not be able to possess the promise God has for our lives.

Although we all may have cycles going on in our lives, the way to break the cycle comes by shifting our perspective. The last couple of times I spoke with you, we have been talking about developing a Kingdom Mindset. Moreover, a Kingdom Mindset is a mindset that causes us to shift our perspective, which causes

what is known as a paradigm shift. It shifts your whole way of thinking.

Thesis:

For us to break the cycle in our lives, we must shift our perspective on how we see ourselves, believe God and what He has promised us, and learn to follow God full-heartedly.

Message:

Context.

Before we get into our text, I want to give you some context as to what is going on in the text. This passage takes place about 2 years after God has delivered the nation of Israel out of Egypt. Therefore, the Israelites in this passage were the first generation that has come out of Egypt. This generation of Israelites saw the

hand of God in their lives. They saw up close God's hand move. They saw the plagues that were in Egypt and how God kept them safe. They saw how God used Moses to go in front of Pharaoh and demand for the people of God to be set free. This was the generation that once they were set free sang the praises of God, but also were the people that built for themselves a golden calf. This was the people who saw the cloud by day and fire by night. Although they saw God do all of this, they still did not see themselves able to take the promised land, possess the promises God promised them. Although they saw the hand of God move on their behalf, they still found themselves grumbling and complaining against God. Although God delivered them out of Egypt, once they were in the wilderness we find them wishing they could go back to Egypt.

It was because of this mindset that God would promise that this generation would not enter the promised land and enter his rest.

For the remaining 38 years, they would spend time circling the mountain until an entire generation died off in the wilderness, (all except Caleb and Joshua), causing them not to be able to enter the promised land, but their children would.

Israelites Mindset

A. The Israelites had a mindset that had no vision.

Dr. A.R. Bernard once said, “When you do not have a vision for your life, you are bound to revert to your past.” Because the Israelites could not see themselves in the Promised Land, they automatically reverted to how things were in Egypt. Although they were free, they were still slaves in their minds.

B. The Israelites did not believe God.

- As a result, they often would complain about God and Moses.

- They were ungrateful.
- They focused on the problem and not the promise. They came with a bad report.

C. As a result they had to spend 38 years in the desert, circling the mountain and never entering the promised land.

Message:

Although the nation of Israel had this kind of mindset, God was able to spare Joshua and Caleb because they had a different mindset about them. Scripture tells us that they had a different spirit about them, a spirit that was more like God. Joshua and Caleb had a mindset that saw themselves capable of possessing the promised land, they had a grateful mindset and a mindset that believed and followed God.

I. Joshua and Caleb saw themselves well able.

Numbers 13:30-33 NKJV

30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”

32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”[\[2\]](#)

A. Joshua and Caleb had a healthy self-perception about themselves.

Q. How do you see yourself? Do you see yourself possessing the promises God has for you? Do you see yourself going to the places God has destined you to go? Living where he has destined for you to live?

For example, I remember when I was learning the game of basketball. One thing I remember my coach telling me when I was learning how to shoot the ball was, “If you are going to take the shot, you must first see yourself shooting and making the shot.” To me, this stood out because many times in life, many of us are unwilling to take our shot because we simply do not see ourselves making the shot. For us to possess the promises God has for us, we have to see ourselves there first.

- How we see ourselves is determined by having a proper vision.

Today most people live their lives by sight and not vision. What sight does, is it focuses on the current situation and only sees the obstacles that stand in the way. But what Vision can see beyond the current situation and obstacles and focuses on the possibilities and promises.

If you look at Numbers 13:31-33 and Numbers 14:6-9 we see the stark difference between the 10 other spies and Joshua and Caleb. The 10 other spies saw the good of the land, but because they did not have proper vision or perspective of themselves, they saw themselves as grasshoppers instead of being well able to possess the fruit of the land. Their focus was on the Giants.

Because their focus was on the Giants, they became fearful of the Giants in the land, and that fear shifted their focus from what God has promised them to what lies ahead of them. Because they focused on the Giants, that fear caused them to doubt their potential and ability to take the land. Not only did they doubt themselves, they doubted that God would be able to deliver those who inhabited the land into their hands.

B. Joshua and Caleb believed they could take the Land.

Because they had the proper vision, they believed in their ability to take the land and fight.

This is the reality, when we are going to go after that dream and possess that land, there will be inhabitants we may have to fight off. There will be systems at play we will have to overcome. But

if we are going to take the land, we must believe we have got what it takes to do so.

It's like with sports, for you to win the game, you have to come in knowing that you can win the game. If you do not believe you can win, guess what? You will not win the game.

II. Joshua and Caleb believed God would give them the land.

This is the thing, Joshua and Caleb were not denying that there were other inhabitants in the Land. They just believed that God would give them what He has promised them.

Q. Why could Joshua and Caleb believe that God would give them this land?

1. They remembered how God delivered them out of Egypt.

Remember this generation saw the hand of God. They saw God perform miracles, signs, and wonders.

This goes to show that although many people may be delivered out of Egypt, see the signs and wonders, it doesn't mean that they will believe God full-heartedly.

2. They believed that God would bring them into the promised land.

The reality is this when God brings you out of something, the goal is not to just leave you in the wilderness, although the wilderness can be used as a time of preparation. The Goal is that he can bring you into what he has promised you.

For the Israelites, this land was a land God has already promised Abraham. God had told Abraham in Genesis that his people would come back to this land and inhabit it after 400 years of being enslaved. In essence, God already released his word on it. For us, there are things God has already released his word on, but for us to walk in the blessing, we must believe God will bring us into the land.

As believers, when we say that God will bring us into the land, we are not denying the systems that may be at play in the world. The reality is some systems are at play, but we must also realize that the Earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof. Because the Earth is the Lords, God can bring in who He has destined to bring in, and evict who He desires to evict.

III. Joshua and Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly.

Not only did Joshua and Caleb believe God, God saw that they obeyed him. In other words, what they believed directed the action they took.

The nation of Israel rejected God's leading. But Joshua and Caleb followed the Lord, whether that was serving under Moses, (Joshua was Moses' assistant), and doing what God has commanded through Moses.

Conclusion

Because Joshua and Caleb had a different spirit about them, seeing themselves as well able, believing that God would give them the land, and obeying God full-heartedly, God spared them and caused them to lead the next generation into the promised land.

[1] Biblical Studies Press. (2005). *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Nu 14:20–25). Biblical Studies Press.

[2] *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Nu 13:30–33). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.