

Part 1: Grapes and Giants

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Numbers 13:1-2

1 The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

Numbers 13:16-28

16 These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.) 17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. 18 See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

21 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. 24 That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

Numbers 13:33

We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

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Message notes:

Our words _____. There is no neutrality to our words.

In responding to His people's desire, God gives _____ to His people.

_____ : choosing to move simply because God told you to.

There's wisdom in caution, but it can also be crippling because you can _____.

It's dangerous to get dependent on " _____ out the land"

When somebody is speaking words that leave God out, they are words of _____.

When God calls you to do something, you can _____ on the blessing (the grape), or you can focus on the giant.

When you make decisions by facts, but you leave out faith, you are in _____ territory.

Hear God and _____ Him. See the giants as small and the blessings as big.

Additional notes:

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Discussion Questions:

1. This series is rooted in Proverbs 18:21 “the tongue has the power of life and death”. Share about a time when your words impacted someone positively or negatively.
2. Pastor Jamie notes that the spies’ words showed a lack of faith because they emphasized giants instead of the fruitful land promised by God. Why do you think the ten spies focused more on the obstacles instead of the blessings that awaited them in the Promised Land?
3. In the message, Pastor Jamie mentions that the spies brought back a negative report that left God out of their statements. Why do you think it’s important to include God in our perspectives when we face challenges?
4. Pastor Jamie talked about two categories of faith seen in the story of the 12 spies: those who act in faith without hesitation and those who seek to ‘spy out the land’ first. Where do you see yourself on this spectrum?
5. The message stated that entering the Promised Land symbolizes claiming the spiritual inheritance God has for us, which comes with challenges and battles. Are there areas of your life that you are holding back on because of the risk?

Ministry Time:

Pray for anyone who is facing a situation where they need the strength and courage to speak life-giving words into a situation that has many giants.

Pray for anyone who feels they have areas in their life where they are letting fear overshadow faith.