

A Caleb Attitude Numbers 13-14

ILLUSTRATION: Last week we hosted Hernan Sierra and his son for our Global Impact Conference. When I visited Honduras Hernan took me to visit the “El Picacho” statue in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. El Pic-cho is 2,500 ton statue that stands 98 feet tall on the highest mountain. The story goes that it was built to look like the “Christ the Redeemer” statue in Brazil, but El Pi- chos arms are bent slightly and the Christ the Redeemers are full and outstretched... I asked about the difference and one of the local men said, “In Brazil, Christ is saying - Look at all of the beautiful women... in Honduras Christ is saying... where are the beautiful women?” :)

Well I felt like I needed to show Hernan something equally impressive here in the Huntsville Metro area - so I took him to our Space and Rocket Center. We saw the F-1 Rocket Engine, we saw the Apollo 16 return capsule, we saw the lunar landing module from which Neil Armstrong stepped foot onto the moon. But by far the most impressive thing we saw at the space and rocket center was a man named Charlie Johnson - in his late 80's he was one of several men who retired from NASA who were instrumental in designing the Saturn 5 Rocket. Hearing Charlie describe designing the hydraulic system with a number 2 pencil, then the night following the successful launch - was more impressive than any relic in the entire museum.

Charlie and men like him were the true treasures of NASA. That got me to thinking about Capshaw. Here we are on a multi-million dollar campus. We have planted churches, we are currently planting a church in the city of Las Vegas, we are supporting works literally around the world - BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE - our people are our greatest asset.

I want to show you the difference one solitary life can make.

Now Remember speaking of this time - 1 Corinthians 10:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

CONTEXT: In Numbers 13 we are tracking the story of Moses leading the children of Israel to the edge of the land God had promised Abraham and his descendants. God commanded Moses to send spies into the land to scope out the challenges that lay before them.

In Numbers 13 we see the report they brought back after 40 days of investigation...

TEXT: Numbers 13:25–33 (ESV)

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. ²⁶ And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we

saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.”

³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, ***“Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.”*** ³¹ Then 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 are.” ³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

Now if you have been keeping up with the reading you will know that the people were terrified at the report. As a matter of fact they were ready to elect a new leader and head back to Egypt. Their lack of faith resulted in 40 years of Israel wandering in the wilderness and that entire generation perished in the wilderness and it was their children who were allowed to inherit the promise - Only Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter the land. Now what was it about them? What made them different?

Why did they say, “Yes” when everyone around them said, “No”? I believe the answer is attitude.

ATTITUDE -

Numbers 14:24 (ESV)

²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

According to the Baker Encyclopedia - the Hebrew Word for Spirit - is the seat of inner consciousness, the thinking, planning, motivating intelligence of a person. Hence it often refers to one’s frame of mind - their tendency toward enthusiasm or depression, courage or fear, and the like.

God says - Caleb’s spirit, or inner disposition is different than the rest of the team.

It is your attitude that makes all the difference.

John Maxwell was right - your attitude determines your altitude.

1. A Bad Attitude sees the Problem in Every Opportunity

Notice the perspective of the 10 pessimists in **Numbers 13**

³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim),

NOW let me give you a bit of a history lesson - the Nephilim were a tribe of giants who lived in the time of **Noah**, remember what happened to everyone who was not Noah or his family? They were killed!!! They didn't see Nephilim in land.

33b. and we seemed to ourselves like **grasshoppers**, and so we seemed to them."

A BAD ATTITUDE Magnifies the obstacles and minimizes the possibilities.

They are Giants, we are grasshoppers.

ILLUSTRATION: Just as *A quarter lifted over the eye can obscure the blazing light of the sun. A star whose diameter is 865,000 miles. A Bad Attitude can blind us to the power of God and the God factor in every situation.*

A Bad attitude skews your perspective it distorts reality...

ILLUSTRATION: The story is told of two mischievous grandkids who spent the weekend at their grandparents home. They noticed that every evening about the same time grandpa laid down for his evening nap. One particular evening the two boys went into the kitchen and found their grandmother's Limburger cheese and brought it and rubbed it all over their grandfather's handlebar mustache. In a few minutes granddad woke up.... And sniffed. "This room stinks he said". Then he went into the kitchen and said, "This Kitchen stinks". Thinking some fresh air might do him some good he went outside and declared, "The whole world stinks".

May I ask you - do you tend to think the whole world stinks? If you do - it's not so much about what has happened to you, but what is happening within you.

I am convinced that NOTHING effects you attitude more than your theology. What you believe determines your disposition toward everything around you.

Do you believe that God who began a good work in you WILL be faithful to complete it? Do you believe God is able to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory?

One of my favorite passages of scripture is **Luke 10:17-20 (ESV)**

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" ¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. that's an awesome promise...but notice what Jesus says next...

²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

If you will hold the reality of your name being written in God's book up against EVERYTHING - good or bad. IT IS A BETTER TRUTH!!! IT IS A BIGGER TRUTH!!!

Nothing is so wrong that your name being written in the Lamb's book of life won't fix.

1. A Bad Attitude sees the Problem in Every Opportunity

2. A Good Attitude Sees the Opportunity in Every Problem -

Numbers 14:9 (ESV)

⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for ***they are bread for us.***

What is bread? Bread is what gives us energy, strength, we grow from bread, we live from bread. Caleb looked at the problem and saw an opportunity for growth.

ILLUSTRATION: I heard a story about A shoe salesman went to Africa and sent word back and said, "get me out of here" they said, "why?" he answered, "the people don't wear shoes". They sent another man, he stayed a few nights and sent a message home saying, "send me all the shoes you have - i've never seen so many prospects"

Joshua 14:7–12 (ESV) 40 years had passed since Caleb's report...

⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart.

¹⁰ And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day **eighty-five** years old. ¹¹ I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. ¹² So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said."

Caleb's **ATTITUDE** had a greater influence on Caleb than Caleb's **AGE!**

Men like Caleb feed on Giants... as a matter of fact they are Giant hunters. They see a giant and their mouth waters.

Giants in the Bible are symbolic of anything and everything the enemy will use to intimidate and immobilize you from reaching the promises of God.

- **FAMILY** - You want to have a godly family, a strong marriage, faithful kids... but there is a Giant of Heritage saying, "you'll never amount to anything... who in your family ever made a difference for God?"

- **CAREER** - You want to have a successful career. But there is a Giant of Failure saying, "Have you seen your resume?, it's too late for you, you are destined to be mediocre".

Caleb reminds us - ALWAYS look at Giants from God's perspective.

You see, next to you - they look like Nephilim and you look like a grasshopper... but next to God they look like grasshoppers.

Isn't that what David did? He saw Goliath and asked, "Who is this uncircumcised philistine who chastises the army of the living God??"

1 Samuel 17:32–37 (ESV)

³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth."

Do you see Saul's perspective - next to Goliath you are Grasshopper...

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "**The Lord who delivered me** from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Do you see David's attitude - it's not about how big I am, it's about how big my God is!!!

DAVID said - this really isn't a fair fight at all because God is on my side!

Let me show you something very interesting about these Giants...

Numbers 13:22 (ESV)

²² They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there.

Now remember that in the Hebrew names often have meaning attached to them... that is the case here....There are **3 sons of Anak** -

- Ahiman - "What I am"
- She-Shai - "Who I am"
- Tal-mai - "What I can do"

Those are the same areas that the enemy uses to attack us -

- Ego - who I am
- Pride - What I am

- Self Reliance - what I can do

LISTEN: The key to a good attitude is getting the focus off of you and onto God.

Change the conversation from

- WHO I AM - to WHO GOD IS
- WHAT I AM - to WHAT GOD IS
- WHAT I CAN DO - to WHAT GOD CAN DO

Because here is the deal - if it's only you - you might as well give up, but you plus God equals a majority every time.

Bill Stafford said, *"I used to have an inferiority complex until I realized I am inferior"*.

LISTEN - you are inferior, but the God who called you is Superior.

Ian Thomas - you can't He never said you could, he can he always said He would, why don't you let him?

What would your life look like if you took very seriously the promise that, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world?"

You know what I think would happen? I think that in 40 years people would visit capshaw and say - it is truly amazing what God has done there. Who would have believed that a little church in North Alabama could have made an impact around the world? Someone would say - what do you think the secret is - technology? buildings? Then someone would answer, no, it was a few people who just believed God was bigger than the challenges they faced.... they like Caleb said, "Give us this Mountain".