

Sermon Questions
September 25, 2016
Numbers 13: 17-31

1. The people of Israel experienced a short lived victory over trauma. Freed from 400 years of slavery and cared for as they traveled the wilderness for 40 years, they were at the boundary with the land that Jesus has promised the yet they were unable to enter. The cause? They forgot the promise of God!
 - a. What are some promises in Scripture that Jesus has made to us?
 - b. What are some of the promises that Jesus has made to us that we easily forget?
 - c. How could we better remember these promises?
 - d. What are some things in my life I need to change based off of these promises?
2. The spies traveled 500 miles up and down the promised land, scoping out the land that God had promised them. 500 miles is a long way in 40 days...
 - a. What about a hard journey makes it hard to remember God's promises?
 - b. What are some hard journeys you have experienced that made you forget the promises of Christ?
 - c. How can we encourage those around us to hold on to the promises that Jesus has made to every believer?
3. The report that came back to the people of Israel was not an accurate one. It was full of exaggeration. In fact, they mentioned that the land was filled with Nephilim. The Nephilim were creatures described in Genesis 6. But according to the flood narrative, they would not have survived the flood, so would no longer be alive in the land. So why are they a part of the spies' report? Are they really Nephilim or are they just an exaggerated tale to create fear?
 - a. The people were told to occupy the land but it was scary! So they made up a story that was untrue to help them feel OK with not doing what God had commanded.
 - i. What stories do we make up to keep us from obeying Jesus?
 - ii. How do we create obstacles that make us feel better about not being obedient? (Example: If I talk about Jesus more directly I will lose my job. If I tell my neighbor about Jesus she will think I'm crazy. If I give that much time or that many resources to building His kingdom then I will be on the streets when I am older.)
4. The Israelites would rather die in the wilderness than have to overtake the land that God promised to give them? What are ways that we choose death in our lives?
5. What "bad reports" might you be believing in your own life? How can these beliefs go from personal, to pervasive to permanent? Give examples of how this happens.
6. What "bad reports" might our church be believing? How do we begin to counter these bad reports?