

Giant Slayer or Nay Sayer?

Numbers 13:1-3 – NKJV - Spies Sent into Canaan

13 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.”

³So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the Lord, all of them men who *were* heads of the children of Israel.

Numbers 13:25-28 - NKJV

²⁵ And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children 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 Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. ²⁸ Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

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^[a] (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Numbers 14:1-2 – NKJV - Israel Refuses to Enter Canaan

14 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

INTRO:

A. God told Moses to send spies.

God wanted Israel to know that the land He had promised them was real, and that it was a land rich in resources and provisions.

God wants us to know about the blessings.

- **His promises are real.**
- It is not a blind faith, **God has proven Himself through...**

1 Corinthians 10:11 – NKJV - Israel

¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

- **The early Church**. Therein are many examples of Gods care and provisions.

What God promises He shall also accomplish.

Numbers 23:19 – CEV - ¹⁹ God is no mere human! He doesn't tell lies or change his mind. God always keeps his promises.

B. Our problem is that we often focus on the challenges and not on the Champion of our faith.

- Too often we are defeated ***before we have even engaged the enemy.***
- It is sad when we cannot see what God wants to do ***because we focus on what He hasn't done.***
- We have to remember that while the enemy is like a roaring lion roaming to and fro ***seeking whom he may devour; no man was ever KILLED BY A ROAR.***

C. Twelve spies were sent, ten spies came back spineless not willing to walk in faith

- These **Nay-Sayers** had their day.
- Their **negative report** moved –
- The masses to **fears and tears**.
- The people to rebel against **God ordained leadership.**

D. How many of you know that anytime God gives a promise, Satan will try to keep us from receiving that promise?

He will try to fill...

- Our HEART with fear
- Our MOUTH with doubt. (doubt is rebellion against God)

Do you know how Satan tries to discourage a church?????

- He raises up the **Nay-Sayers** and they begin to preach the sermon of **doubt and discouragement**.
- **Nay-Sayers** never see the possibility - They are ***defeated by the roar***.
- They are ***conquered by their own fear***.
- They will give a thousand reasons why it can't be done-even if God said He would be our helper.

E. The negativism of the Nay-Sayer is contagious.

1. **They say things like:** 'I believe for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows.. .And a foundation leaks and a ball game gets rained out and a car rusts."
2. **They say,** '~**Always take time to stop and smell the roses...** and sooner or later, you'll inhale a bee."
3. **They tell you that,** "**Into every life some rain must fall... Usually when your car windows are down.**"

I. LOOK FIRST AT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NAY-SAYERS

A. To begin with, Nay-Sayers DOUBT.

1. ***Twelve men went into Canaan, and twelve men came out***

All twelve came back with the testimony that God's promises were real

- **Nay-Sayers will** often say that they do believe that God can do what He has promised, but they doubt that He will.....
- **Nay-Sayers will** often claim to worship the same God that created universe and called life into existence, but they doubt that He can heal or provide, or take care of His own.

All twelve men testified that **Canaan was everything God had promised.**

- They said, "We went to the land where you sent us. **It truly flows with milk and honey,** and this is its fruit."
- They had even brought back proof **of the fruitfulness** of the land.

They weren't done talking yet.

- The ten Nay-Sayers continued, "Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land **are strong**; the **cities are fortified** and **very large**; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there."

Even after **Caleb had quieted the people** and encourage them to go on and possess the land, **the Nay-Sayers continued their drumbeat of defeat.**

- They said, '**We are not able** to go up against the people, **for they are stronger than we...** the land through which we have gone... is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it **are men of great stature.**
- There **we saw giants** and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Nay-Sayer doubt - They doubt themselves - one-another - But worst of all, they doubt God.

- If we listen to **the Nay-sayers**, we are likely to become infected with doubt.

That doesn't mean faith is blind.

The two faithful men saw the giants –

- But they saw God who stood above the giants and they knew God was on their side.
- Faith is not a denial of reality, but the realization that there is a higher law than the natural laws.
- There is a spiritual law, a law that can suspend the laws of nature and cause miracles to happen.

B. The Nay-Sayers could not get their eyes any higher than their problems and so they and the people began to DOUBT and POUT.

The people had become infected with doubt and so they all began to fall into depression and despair.

- They began to pout and question God - *Doubting leads to pouting* not to shouting.

Doubt rips the praise from your lips and leaves you with the bitter taste of fear and discouragement.

In their pouting they began to say foolish things.

- Things like, 'We would have been better off in Egypt.'
- Or, "We should have just died in the wilderness."

They had lost the song they had sung as they came out of the Red Sea and their enemies were defeated behind them. **They turned on the leadership** and would have stoned those who dared believe that it could be done.

C. Those who doubt and pout, will DO WITHOUT

The whole generation who refused to pass over to the promised land, did die in the wilderness.

- People without faith are doomed to go through the motion without joy.
- **People who will not believe** dwell in a wilderness of questions and anxiety.
- **Nay-Sayers never** get to taste and see that the Lord, He is good.
- **Nay-Sayers never** get anywhere in their Christian walk.

Their motto is....

- Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead.
- Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow.
- Do not walk beside me, either, just leave me alone."

If we are not careful, we will find ourselves following in the footsteps of the Nay-Sayers.

- They tell us why it can't be done, then before we know it....
- **Our heart** has been filled with fear - **Our praise** is silenced

Beware of the Nay-Sayer - Nay-Sayers, doubt, pout and do without.

II IN CONTRAST TO THE NAY-SAYER, WE SEE THE GIANT SLAYER

Two men who....

- **Refused** to go along with the popular opinion.
- **Stood** their ground.
- **Had the courage to believe** that if God brought them TO the promise, God would take them into the promise.
- Were prepared **to take on giants in the name of the Lord**.

Let's look at the characteristics of Giant Slayers

A. First of all, Giant Slayers BELIEVE

In the face of overwhelming odds, Caleb and Joshua believed.

With the ten other men declaring that **it could not be done, they placed their confidence in the Lord** and said, "Let's go!"

The writer of Hebrews tells us

HEB. 11:6 - "...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him".

- **We cannot be a Nay-Sayer** and please God.
- **Without faith**, it is impossible to please God.

The Giant Slayer...

- Takes God at His Word.
- The man or woman of faith **believes in the promises of God**.
- ***Stands on the Word***, reads the Word, lives by the Word, speaks the Word and believes God's Word.

Declares in the face of doubt and discouragement

- "Let God be true and every man a liar."
- Every promise in the book is mine; every lot, every line!'

Has the...

Promise in his hand - **Praise** on his lips - **Victory** stamped on his heart

B. The Giant Slayer believes, and the Giant Slayer ACHIEVES.

Only the two names among the twelve are remembered.

- The other ten names are written, but no one remembers them.
- They faded into the dusty pages of defeated lives.
- But Joshua and Caleb are household names.

Joshua and Caleb lived through the wilderness and came back to possess their possessions.

These two men....

- Crossed over - **Achieved** greatness - Saw the walls of Jericho fall.
- **Drove out** the enemy before them.
- **Walked with God** and because they did, they achieved what others did not.

The Giant Slayer achieves greatness because his trust is in the Lord.

David, another famous Giant Slayer, achieved greatness because His confidence was in the Lord.

- His own brothers **were Nay-Sayers** -
- David achieved greatness because he dared to walk with God...

CLOSE:

C. Giant Slayers believe, they achieve, and they RECEIVE.

Joshua and Caleb received their portion of the promise.

- **They...Walked** on the ground - **Built and lived in the land**.
- **They... Received blessings from God - Honor among men....**

Now I am not into this "Name it and claim it," or "Blab it and grab it," theology; but when I look into the Word of God and He says, 'Believer, this is for you.'

Then my only question is, "Do I believe?" Because if I do, then it's mine.

If I can believe...

All things are possible - I can achieve - I will receive **all that God has in store for me**.

I know that **if I walk in His will**....

- He **will not** forsake me - He'll never leave me begging bread.

If I abide in Him, and **His Word abides in me**, I can ask what I will, and **I will receive it**.

- This is true because **if His Word truly abides in me**
- I **will not** ask for anything which God has not willed for my life.

Everything I ask for, and **everything He supplies will be given that I may accomplish the ministry He has given me to do**.

If you are a Giant Slayer, ***He will do the same for you!!!!!!!!!!***

Maybe God has been calling you to **kill some giants in your life**.

Giants of **depression** - Giants of **lust** - Giants of **fear** – Debt – Disease - Sin

Giants that are **standing on your promises**.

Well, today needs to be the day...

You **believe** - You **achieve** - You **receive**

PRAISE TEAM:

Today needs to be the day that you...

1. **Stop running from the roar**
2. **Resist the devil**
3. **Send him fleeing from you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Today **you need to stand** where David stood-in faith-and watch giants fall!

Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible.

- **There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible.**
- **Faith begins where man's power ends.**

Faith in God does not just believe he exists.....

But doing what he says because you believe he will keep his promises!!!