

Giants in the Land

Numbers 13:30-33

Introduction:

- A. The twelve spies.
 - 1. "Majority report" (10 spies)
 - a. Land was all as promised. (vs. 23,26,27; cf. Ex. 3:7-8).
 - b. "Nevertheless" (Vs. 28-29).
 - 2. "Minority report" (Joshua and Caleb)
 - a. Saw the same problems as others.
 - b. Nevertheless Lord was on their side. (14:8,9).
- B. People today.
 - 1. Majority like majority of spies:
 - a. See only problems and not opportunities - defeated before start.
 - b. See the "spiritual giants in the land" and give up.
 - 2. Minority of people much like two spies:
 - a. See problems, but know that God is on their side.
 - b. See the "spiritual giants in the land", but accept the challenge.

Discussion:

I. Great Spiritual Giants That Must Be Overcome.

- A. External giants - strong appeals of:
 - 1. False teachers. (2 Pet. 2:18-19; Rom. 16:17,18; Gal. 4:17)
 - 2. Socially-centered religion. (cf. Rev. 3:1).
 - 3. Emotionalism - "Don't have to prove it, just feel it." (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
 - 4. Worldliness. (Luke 8:14; Heb. 11:25,26) Here and now.
 - 5. Watered down preaching. (2 Cor. 2:17)
 - a. On worldliness.
 - b. On marriage
 - c. On responsibilities.
- B. Internal Giants.
 - 1. Love for ease and comfort - avoid unpleasant at all cost.
 - 2. Love for attention (cf. Matt. 23:5) - Popularity, rebellion, flattery.
 - 3. Impatience and discouragement.
 - a. Instant results, Lord's way too slow. (1 Cor. 3:7; Gal. 6:9).
 - b. Tempts us to compete with world on its grounds.
 - c. Tempts us to throw in the towel with each "set-back."
 - 4. "Greener pasture" syndrome - Things always better elsewhere. (Num. 11:4-9).
 - a. If had lived in New Testament days.
 - b. If lived in the "good old days" of church.
 - c. If were member of another congregation.
 - d. If had another wife, another preacher, another job, etc.
 - 5. Our negative attitudes. (Num. 13:30, 31)

II. Great Spiritual Giant-Killer: The Lord! (Num. 14:9; cf. David & Goliath)

- A. Can do all things through Him. (Phil. 4)
- B. Do His will - Let Him handle results department. (1 Cor. 3:7)
- C. Cast cares on Him.

Conclusion:

- A. Let's learn God's will.
- B. Let's learn to zealously do God's will.
- C. Let's trust Him for results - not distorted, deterred nor distracted by problems.