

Joshua 14:6-15 Caleb's Mountain

Dwight Lyman Moody was a simple shoes salesman in Chicago. He had an elementary education, didn't go to college and wasn't that articulate. But one day he was challenged by this statement: **"The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully consecrated to Him."**

Moody thought himself. "He didn't say, 'a great man,' nor 'a learned man,' nor 'a smart man,' but simply, **'a man.' I am a man,** -

Moody decided I want to be that man – wholly consecrated to God.

He came to be known as **D. L. Moody one of the greatest evangelists** America has ever produced. He preached to over 100 million people and led 100's of thousands to faith in Jesus Christ.

All because D.L. Moody was fully consecrated to Christ!

Well before there was D.L. Moody there was Caleb.

A) One of the unsung heroes of the Bible – a great man of faith – a man who has been an inspiration to believers throughout the ages.

B) It is interesting to me that Many books have been written about great men and women of faith in the Bible –

1) Caleb's name is often missing from those books –

C) But God devotes several chapters in HIS BOOK – to the life and faith of this man Caleb. –
Read today V.6-15 about Caleb as you read

85 Yrs old – Caleb says – Give me that Mountain! Wow Growing old is a bummer – things fade – things – go –

Like your Memory

"Leonard and Margaret, an elderly couple, were starting to have memory trouble so they developed the habit of **writing everything down.** One day as they were sitting in their family room, Margaret said to Leonard, **"Would you mind getting me some ice cream?"**

"No problem," Leonard responded as he **slowly rose to head for the kitchen.** Margaret called after him "You better write it down or you'll forget it." "No I won't," Leonard replied, "its ice cream. How hard can it be to remember that?"

A few minutes later Leonard walked back in the living room carrying a tray with eggs, bacon, coffee, cereal, and orange juice. **To which Margaret sighed and whined,** "Leonard, I told you to write it down. **Now look—you've forgotten the toast."**

Memory goes – and things don't work right

Bill and Susan had been married for 50 years. One day Susan said to Bill **"Things have really changed," - "You used to sit very close to me."**

"Well, I can remedy that," he said, moving next to her on the couch.

"And you used to hold me tight." Susan said

"How's that?" he asked as he gave her a hug.

"Do you remember you used to kiss my neck and nibble on my ear lobes?"

He jumped to his feet and left the room. "Where are you going?"

"I'll be right back," he said. **"I've got to get my teeth!"**

It is true The Body will diminish but our faith should grow!

Today I want us to consider this 85 year old man – noting 5 things about him that made him such a great man of faith.

A) #1 Caleb's Testimony: We are told something six times in the pages of Scripture about Caleb – three times in our text here

B)V. 8,9,14 HIS TESTIMONY: He wholly followed the Lord.

C)We first meet Caleb in Numbers chapter 13 – The Children of Israel have been delivered from Egypt –

Cc) After two yrs of preparation in Wilderness

1)They finally come to a place called Kadesh Barnea, the door way to the promise land –

D)Moses selects 12 spies to go into the land to spy it out.

1)This is where we first meet Caleb – He is one of the chosen spies.

Most of you know the story: The spies go in and see that the land is everything that God said it would be.

AWESOME –flowing with milk, honey, giant fruit

A) And as the spies came back there were two reports given– the MAJORITY report (10 spies) & the MINORITY report – Josh/ Caleb

B)The Majority report was 2 fold – the land is great – truly flowing milk honey giant fruit

C) But along with the Giant fruit there are giant men – and 10 spies were scarred to death.

D)They come back and tell Moses and the People of Israel – the land is awesome but it is filled with Giants – **TOO BIG TO HIT!**

1)That was the Majority report

The Minority report came from Joshua & Caleb – Caleb was the Spokesmen – Yes land is great – Yes Giants – Not too big to hit - too big to miss

A) God has given us this land – let's go forward and possess it.

B) The Majority – the 10 unbelieving spies – measured the giants against themselves –

1)The Minority measured the Giants against God { No contest

2) The Majority trembled in Fear / The Minority was ready to Triumph in faith.

C)In fact it was in that moment – that Caleb makes a statement that is one of my favorite statements in all of the Bible – One of my life verses.

Caleb is trying to encourage the pp of Israel to trust in the Lord he says in Numbers 14:9 ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them."

Note that Caleb says: Guys understand – these giants they are our bread, not in a cocky way – like – we are going to have those guys for lunch.

A)That is not what he was saying: No he was saying – these giants are the very things that are going to NOURISH OUR FAITH.

B)If we trust God and move forward in faith – our faith is going to be nourished – it is going to get stronger as we see the faithfulness of God.

C) **That is what the Bible says that Trials do** – they are our bread –

1) they are meant to **NOURISH OUR FAITH** – if we give them opportunity by trusting in the Lord.

D) Well the Children of Israel wanted none of that – they pick up stones and yell – **STONE JOSHUA AND CALEB.** – God doesn't allow

E) But because of Israel's unbelief and not trusting God – the Children of Israel would spend the next 38 yrs wandering in the wilderness

1) All because of their unbelief

The whole first Generation would die off – Caleb and Joshua would be the only ones in that first Generation to make it in.

A) So Caleb Because of the sin of others – their unbelief he has been living in obscurity for 45 yrs.

B) – he has been sentenced to 40 yrs of wandering in the wilderness.

1) Dreaming about the Land that he longed to dwell in.

C) For 45 years Caleb has been living in obscurity – the last time we read anything about him was back in Numbers 14 –

1) He doesn't know that someone is going to write a chapter about him.

D) **If you know that someone** is going to write a chapter about you in the Bible – you get nervous – you will definitely try to wholeheartedly follow the Lord, because you don't want to be one of those bad chapters right.

E) Caleb doesn't know someone is going to write a chapter about him, but he stays consistent for 45 yrs.

“This phrase wholly followed, is a nautical term that refers to a ship pushing straight ahead, no matter what.” No turning left or right

A) I think the Lord highlights this part of his life because there are too many Christians today **who follow Jesus half heartedly.**

B) They follow when it **is convenient.** When Things are good –

1) They are fickle –

Bb) They hold on to the world because they really don't believe that God has a **better plan for their lives than they have for themselves.**

C) Because they follow half-heartedly they wonder what if I let go? What if I trust him with this or that?

1) What if I take my hands off the wheel.

Remember that old commercial – “leave the driving to us.”

A) What if I did allow God to steer my life. This is their fear – **I may not like where I end up.**

B) So I am going to keep God in the backseat/ ask him for directions now and then – when I get lost – but most of the time I am going to drive this car.

C) Not Caleb – His testimony – Even in the midst of uncertainty – **HE WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD.**

1) waiting for a promise that was made to him 45 yrs before.

God is our Deliverer, - But we have the tendency to interpret **God's delays as denials** – **WE EXPECT IMMEDIATE ANSWERS**

A)What if God waits a month to deliver? – **COMPLAINING** Stop following

B)What if a year goes by –10 years – **THEN WHAT?**

C)What was Caleb thinking after 10 & 20 yrs went by – **He is watching people who came out of Egypt with him dying in the wilderness -**

D)Caleb Complain? – **No record – Caleb wasn't a complainer he was a Conqueror –**

1)He wholly followed the Lord for 45 yrs

E)NOW after 45 years He is about to Receive the Promise!

Hebrews 6:12

“Through faith and patience we inherit the promises of God.”

#2 Caleb's Background:

A)Genesis 15:19 tells us that the Kenizzites were one of the tribes in the land of Canaan. **They were not a part of the people of Israel.**

B)His descendants were from Esau and somewhere along the line joined themselves to Israel in the days of Jacob

C)**He was an outsider:** Maybe you feel that way – You are an outsider, think God could never love you – been so bad.

1)Maybe you have thought – if I went to church the building might collapse on me that is how bad a life I have lived.

D)**You live under constant condemnation because of the wrong choices you have made.**

D)**You come into a setting like this – see pp singing – talking about God – carrying Bibles –**

1) I don't belong here.

THE LIFE OF CALEB ARGUES AGAINST THAT SORT OF THINKING.

Not only that/ Caleb was 40 yrs old when they were at Kadesh Barnea – the door way to the Promised land – spies were sent in.

A)That means Caleb was born in Egypt. He grew up a slave

B)His back bore the scars from the beatings with the whips. He had spent the first 38 yrs of his life living as slave.

C)Maybe you are here today and you are a slave to something.

An Addiction – Slave to lust – Slave to fear – slave to greed.

D)Slave to religiosity – trying to earn points with God through religious rituals

1)**Slave to Legalism** – no joy in your Christian experience – Live under the banner – of Don't

E)**YOUR Christianity is about everything you don't do**

1) live on the performance treadmill always trying to keep up the right standard or persona – exhausting
So Caleb was an outsider

He grew up a slave

And if that wasn't bad enough – His names means Dog - not like Yo Dog - Derogatory

A) To call someone a dog in Bible times was the worst insult – dogs were NOT PETS – FLUFFY & Fido- Dogs were scavengers – beasts.

B) Good for nothing in their culture – attack animals and poop on their land

C) **Yo – Dog** was not an affectionate title.

But this is the guy that God chooses to do a work through.

A) This is so interesting to me: We are moving along at this steady pace – Israel is conquering the land, we have only had a few hiccups – **Ai – sin** –

B) **Lack of prayer – Gibeon** - Other than that things are going smooth. –

C) God is working Southern Campaign – Northern Campaign – the people of Israel are possessing the land-

1) **GOD SUDDENLY SLAMS ON THE BREAKS** interrupts the process to say: let's consider my servant Caleb

Outsider – Slave – no pedigree – one of the worst names – but he is adopted into the tribe of Judah, he is grafted in.

A) **Purpose?** God is showing us His heart:

Aa) My salvation, my promises are for anyone who is willing to believe – anyone who is willing to trust.

B) There is no reason for anyone to be excluded from God's plan of Redemption.

**An outsider can become an insider
An Outcast can become someone special**

C) Caleb's life is the testimony of what can happen when a person wholly follows the Lord.

D) **What was Caleb's secret?**

#3 Caleb's faith in God's Promise.

V.6 Remember God said.....

V.10 God spoke.....

V.12 remember the Lord spoke that day.

Caleb lived by this principle: **"God said it, I believe it, and that settles it."**

Caleb hung on to the promise that God made him through Moses that he would survive and claim his inheritance in the land.

A) Caleb didn't **see obstacles and Barriers** – He saw the promise of God!

B) His body was in the Wilderness – but his MIND AND HEART were already in the land of Canaan.

C) Caleb caught a glimpse of the Reward - & it was Sufficient to keep him true for the rest of his life { He lived for that Mt

D) Colossians 3:1 **If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**

E) God wants us to live with Eternity in View!

#4 Caleb's Strength

A)He says: V.11 I am strong today @ 85 as I was when 40 –

B)But if he Showed his bicep – hanging down! { Not Jack LaLanne

C)The young Israeli – bucks are snickering – YOU GO CALEB

C) This is not the senile ramblings of an old man 1)this is a man who realized 45 yrs earlier when he was 40/ His strength was in God –

D)This is what Caleb knew 45 yrs later – I have changed – older/ weaker **But my God hasn't CHANGED**

Donald Grey Barnhouse – Pastor Theologian – Commentator

A)Graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary -

B)One of his Professors was Robert Wilson – Hebrew Scholar and considered to be one of the Most Brilliant men of all time.

C)A few years after graduating – Barnhouse was invited back to speak

1)There was Professor Wilson – Front row – NO DOUBT intimidating

2)**Me and Pastor Chuck. BIG GODDER!**

D)Caleb was a BIG GODDER – Although his body was growing old

1)His faith was growing BIG! – **WHAT ABOUT YOURS**

E)OUR LIVES / OUR CHURCH? –

1)**BIG GODDERS – GOD MOVE IN OUR LIVES – CITY – REVIVAL/ Older – faith BIGGER**

Billy Graham was once asked: What has impressed you the most about your life? -

His answer the brevity of it.

A)Life is short -

A Mathematician composed a study – what would your life look like in years if it was equivalent to ONE DAY – one 24 hr period. Here is what he came up with.

10yrs old – it is 9am – you are dying at midnight

15yrs old – 10:25am –

20 yrs old – 11:34am – Dying at midnight

25 yrs old – 12:42 in the afternoon.

30 yrs old – 1:51pm

35 yrs old – 3pm in the afternoon - Dying at midnight

40 yrs old – 4:08pm

45 yrs old – 5:15pm

50 yrs old – 6:25pm

55 yrs old – 7:34 pm Dying at midnight

60yrs old – 8:42pm

65yrs old – 9:51

70yrs old – 11pm Dying at midnight

85 – time has run out.

But Pastor Rob – Life isn't equivalent to one 24hr period so I have years to get right with God

A)The bible says: Tomorrow is promised to know one – Tracy 21 – prime training to be a navy Seal.

B)The Bible describes life as a breath – a vapor – a blink –

C) Where are you at on the Clock? – How will you finish your day?

Caleb finished strong

A)In fact we are told in Ch.15:14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak

B) He killed them just because of their names- He drove them out

C)This is so interesting: this wed we will begin to see the Israelites go into the land to settle there and possess their possessions –

D)Each tribe received an inheritance – but it was only Caleb who takes his inheritance.

1)Each tribe received an inheritance – but it is only Caleb who drives out all the inhabitants – it is only Caleb who fully possessed his possessions.

So many Christians are like that – they have an inheritance in Christ but they don't possess it

A)This is a problem we will see throughout the people of Israel – they have an inheritance but they don't possess all of it.

B)They don't drive out all the inhabitants-

1)They let things linger –that will come back to bite them in the future

C)Christians can be guilty of this too -we have an inheritance in Christ –

1) but many Christians don't lay hold of it – they don't follow God with all of their hearts –

D) they want to hold on to the world – and they miss out on the promises and blessing of God

D)CALEB WAS THE ONLY ONE to TAKE HIS INHERITANCE -

1)Caleb's Testimony AND ACTIONS impacted others

#5 Caleb's Inspiration:

A)See later in the story – Caleb's Nephew – Othniel and his Daughter Achsah – step out in faith – lay claim to their possession – Caleb's example

B)That is the legacy that we can leave – OUR FAITH GREW BIG

C)WE LIVED WITH ETERNITY IN VEIW – LAID HOLD OF THE PROMISES OF GOD.

D)Testimony: THEY WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD!