

MESSAGE

Occasion : Father's Recognition Sunday
Date : June 24, 2017

TITLE : **CALEB, THE MAN WHO FOLLOWED GOD WHOLLY**
Text :

Josh 14:6-15

6 Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea.

7 Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.

10 And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.

15 And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

KJV

Bible Reading : Number 13 and 14

Num 14:22-24

22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Matt 5:1-14

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

KJV

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

Caleb, as a name, does not bear much dignity - it means "dog." Yet he was one of the Old Testament greathearted men who never ceased growing even after the passing of many years. He proved and demonstrated the truth that it is possible for the greatest achievement in life to come even in old age; that there is no fixed retiring in the Divine service. The open secret of his godly consistency is that "he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel." Six times in the whole Bible, from the books of Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua, Caleb had the description - "he wholly followed the Lord" (Num. 32:11,12; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:8, 9, 14).

Num 32:10-13

10 And the Lord's anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying,

11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:

12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the Lord.

13 And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the Lord, was consumed.

KJV

Deut 1:34-36

34 And the Lord heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying,

35 Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers,

36 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the Lord.

KJV

About Hebron

A city in the hill country of Judah, originally Kirjath (the city of) Arba (Josh 15:13; 14:15). "Arba was a great man among the Anakims, father of Anak." (See Josh 21:11; Judg 1:10.) Twenty Roman miles S. of Jerusalem, and twenty N. of Beersheba. Rivaling Damascus in antiquity. Built seven years before Zoan in Egypt (Num 13:22). Well known at Abram's entrance into Canaan, 3,780 years ago (Gen 42:18). Hebron was the original name, changed to Kirjath Arba during Israel's sojourn in Egypt, and restored by Caleb, to whom it was given at the conquest of Palestine (Gen 23:2; Josh 14:13-15). The third resting place of Abram; Shechem was the first, Bethel the second. Near Hebron was the cave of Machpelah, where he and Sarah were buried. Now El Khalil, the house of "the friend" of God. Over the cave is now the mosque El Haran, from which all but Muslims are excluded jealously (though the Prince of Wales was admitted), and in which probably lie the remains of Abraham and Isaac, and possibly Jacob's embalmed body, brought up in state from Egypt (Gen 50:13). Near it was the oak or terebinth, a place of pagan worship. Hebron was called for a time also Mamre, from Abram's ally (Gen 23:19; 35:27). It was made a Levite city of refuge (Josh 21:11-13). Still there is an oak bearing Abraham's name, 23 ft. in girth, and covering 90 ft. space in diameter. In Hebron, David reigned over Judah first for seven and a half years (2 Sam 5:5). Here Absalom set up the standard of revolt. On the return from Babylon some of the children of Judah dwelt in Kirjath Arba (Neh 11:25). After various vicissitudes it fell into the Moslems' hands in A.D. 1187, and has continued so ever since.

It is picturesquely situated in a narrow valley running from N. to S. (probably that of Eshcol, whence the spies got the great cluster of grapes, Num 13:23), surrounded by rocky hills, still famed for fine grapes. S. of the town in the bottom of the valley is a tank, 130 ft. square by 50 deep. At the western end is

another, 85 ft. long by 55 broad. Over the former probably David hung Ishbosheth's murderers (2 Sam 4:12).

A) He followed God “wholly” - completely, with his whole being.

It is needless to say that Caleb had seen all the things that God did even from Egypt. If he was 85 when he inherited Hebron, he would have been about 40 when he left Egypt. He saw all the plagues. He saw all the miracles. He saw the Red sea. He saw Sinai. Through all these things, he had one resolution in life...He would follow God with his whole being.

Deut 6:5

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Matt 22:37

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

- 1) His following wholly was seen in all his being from his heart, mind to outward physical expression
- 2) His following wholly was seen in his determination, goals, ambitions

B) He followed God “wholly” - exclusively.

He could have followed the rest of the people. He could have followed their ways. He could have followed other leadership but he remained “exclusively” following God. He could have worshipped other gods when other Israelites have done so, but his Determination was exclusively for God.

1 Cor 10:31

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Prov 3:6

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Rom 14:7-8

7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

1 Cor 6:20

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

C) He followed God “wholly” - faithfully and consistently.

Caleb had unwavering faith. He was consistent through all times. He lived through them all. Through the ten times that the Israelites murmured against God, Caleb remained consistent.

- a) At the Red sea (Exod. 14:11-12)
- b) At Marah (Exod. 15:23-24)
- c) At wilderness of Sin (Exod. 16:2)
- d) In connection with the manna (Exod. 16:20)
- e) In connection with the manna (Exod. 16:27)
- f) At Rephidim (Exod. 17:1-3)
- g) At Horeb (Exod. 32:7)
- h) At Taberah (Num. 11:1)
- i) Of the mixed multitude (Num. 11:4)
- j) At kadesh-barnea (Num. 14)

- a) When other spies saw difficulties, he saw a way to overcome; when they saw defeat, he saw victory; when they were negative about it, he remained optimistic/positive; when they were discouraged, he was encouraged; when they were sad about it, he was enthused.
- b) Even in his old age, he was 85, yet he could claim a mountain and overcome all difficulties

Josh 14:10-12

- 10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.
- 11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.
- 12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

Because of all these, he received the best inheritance!

D) He followed God wholly and reaped the reward from God.

Num 14:22-24

- 22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;
- 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:
- 24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Heb 11:6

- 6 But 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.
- KJV

2 Tim 4:7-8

- 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
 - 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
- KJV

Heb 10:35

- 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
- KJV

Matt 5:10-12

- 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
 - 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.
- KJV

Col 3:23-24

- 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
 - 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
- KJV

E) We need Calebs in our church today:

- 1) With consistent Christian spirit

- 2) With spiritual strength that is not diminished
- 3) Who would not just be content with easy task but would claim mountain For God
- 4) Who saw everything that God did for Israel
- 5) Who would go through all odds and difficulties of life but would remain Faithful
- 6) Who would spiritually outlive his fellows as far as serving God is concerned
- 7) Whose whole being is lived for God
- 8) Who are exclusively God's

See the following information and statistics:

- Having one's own family separates the men from the boys. Being a father exacts great responsibilities from a man. It calls for, among other virtues, the ideals of leadership, foresight and anticipation. It demands strong vision, a sense of mission and strength of character.
- The diligence of a good father of a family... Is the law lawfully accepted minimum level of prudence required of everyone and is usually a valid defense against liability arising from contracts towards obligations unless of course the law or agreement stipulate another stand.
- Now there are more paternal substitutes plying the world all-over. Whereas before, fathers were substituted by teachers, priests, peers or any male authority figure,. But today, fathers need to compete with gadgets and means internet, virtual friends, heroes and inanimate objects... but fathers remain to be extremely important in child development... Children look up to their fathers to provide for their emotional, spiritual, physical, financial, social and total well being.
- In recent times research studies reveal the correlation of a fathers influence on child development and rearing...and which has profound effect on and manifestation on the child's future and his impact on society...The National Center for Educational Statistics in US reports that when fathers are involved in their children's development and education, the children were more likely to get A's, enjoy school and participate in extra curricular activities.
- However, when fathers are absent, the results are disheartening. Children have a higher rate of asthma, headache and anxiety, depression and behavioral problems. Teen agers have greater risks of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug use and suicide. Adolescent girls are 3 times more likely to engage in improper relations by the time they turn 15; and 5x more likely to become teen mothers.
- See this statistics
 - 63% of youth suicides come from fatherless homes
 - 90% of all homeless and runaway children come from fatherless homes
 - 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral problems come from fatherless homes
 - 80% of rapists motivated by displaced anger come from fatherless homes
 - 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes
 - 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes
 - 70% of juveniles in state operated institutions come from fatherless homes
 - 85% of all youths within prisons grew up from fatherless homes

Children who come from fatherless homes are

- 5x more likely to commit suicide
- 32x more likely to run away
- 20x more likely to have behavioral disorders
- 14x more likely to commit rape
- 9x more likely to drop out of high school
- 10x more likely to abuse chemical substances
- 9x more likely to end up in state operated institution
- 20x more like to end up in prison...