TALKING POINTS

Lessons of Faith from Joshua

Quarter 4, Lesson 8

"Giants of Faith: Joshua and Caleb"

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MEMORY VERSE: "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct." Hebrews 13:7, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson reflects on the spiritual legacy of Caleb and Joshua.

1. Caleb was a faithful example (Sun, Mon, Tue, Fri)

- Caleb means "dog."
    - Though always used in a negative context in the Bible otherwise, Caleb's name ("keleb") seems to emphasize loyalty to his master, God (see Qtly, Sun, par 1).
        - Unlike those of the faithless spies, we know Caleb's name (and Joshua's) because his courageous devotion to God—even at great risk to his own life—made him worthy of remembrance.
- Caleb selected Hebron for his inheritance (Josh. 14:6-14).
    - Caleb's selection of land was directly tied to the promise the Lord had made 40 years before (vs. 9-12).

> He did not ask for himself a land already conquered, but the place which above all others the spies had thought it impossible to subdue. By the help of God he would wrest his stronghold from the very giants whose power had staggered the faith of Israel. It was no desire for honor or aggrandizement that prompted Caleb's request. The brave old warrior was desirous of giving to the people an example that would honor God, and encourage the tribes fully to subdue the land which their fathers had deemed unconquerable. PP 513 (Qtly, Fri, par 1)

- Caleb's daughter manifests her father's faithful courage.
    - Caleb's pledged his daughter, Achsah, to be wife of the man who conquered Debir—demonstrating his priority of trust in God to deliver the land as promised.
        - Clearly, Achsah learned from her father's example.

2. Joshua was a faithful example (Wed)

- Joshua's choice of land manifests true humility and faith.
    - Joshua opted to take his inheritance last, reflecting the humility of Moses (Josh. 19:49, 50; see also Num. 12:3).

- "The name of Joshua's city [Timnath-serah] can be translated as the leftover portion or the remaining territory." Qtly, Wed, par 2

- For Joshua, one of the primary considerations in the establishment of his territory was proximity to Shiloh, the dwelling of the Lord (see Qtly, Wed, par 4).

3. "One example is worth many precepts" (Sab, Tue, Thu)

- As Joshua learned from Moses and as Achsah learned from her father, Caleb, we are to learn from godly examples.
    - The Apostles in the New Testament repeatedly emphasized the importance of godly examples in the Christian faith.
        - The apostle Peter trained the elders he established not to behave as "lords over those entrusted to you," but to be "examples to the flock" (1 Pet. 5:3).
        - The Apostle Paul wrote, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1) and implored the brethren in Philippi to "join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern" (Phil. 3:17).

> Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged. Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors. Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people, and others, uniting with them, will learn from their example. One example is worth more than many precepts. ChS 59

CONCLUSION

"From birth, humans are shaped by the power of example. We learn to do the most basic things in life—such as walking, talking, and expressing our emotions—by imitating those closest to us. As adults, we still need role models, and even if they are not perfect, we can admire and emulate those spiritual traits that made them giants of faith." Qtly, Sab, par 2