

September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide
Freedom from Your Fears
God's Answer to Our Anxieties

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

“Giants & Grasshoppers”

Scripture: Numbers 13:25-33 (Common English Bible)

²⁵ They returned from exploring the land after forty days. ²⁶ They went directly to Moses, Aaron, and the entire Israelite community in the Paran desert at Kadesh. They brought back a report to them and to the entire community and showed them the land's fruit. ²⁷ Then they gave their report: “We entered the land to which you sent us. It's actually full of milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ There are, however, powerful people who live in the land. The cities have huge fortifications. And we even saw the descendants of the Anakites there. ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the land of the arid southern plain; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the mountains; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the Jordan.”

³⁰ Now [Joshua and] Caleb calmed the people before Moses and said, “We must go up and take possession of it, because we are more than able to do it.”

³¹ But the men who went up with him said, “We can't go up against the people because they are stronger than we.” ³² They started a rumor about the land that they had explored, telling the Israelites, “The land that we crossed over to explore is a land that devours its residents. All the people we saw in it are huge men. ³³ We saw there the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We saw ourselves as grasshoppers, and that's how we appeared to them.”

~ SERMON NOTES ~

Ever heard of the “grasshopper complex?” It always begins with a low estimation of ourselves. It is a formula for fear and futility. Whatever is keeping you out of the “promised land” that God has for you is not near as big as the God who loves you with an everlasting love!

So...how do we face our fears of the giants and the grasshoppers in our lives?

The way to overcome the grasshopper mentality is to remember

1. _____.

“Before I created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5).

2. _____.

“God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan” (Eph. 1:5).

3. _____.

“God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, and of love, and of self-control” (2 Tim. 1:7).

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