

The Lost Generation

Hebrews 11:29-30 By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

- What's missing? Do you notice how we skipped 40 years? We've got all this history recorded between Exodus 14 - Joshua 1 that is skipped in this passage. Think about that. Why? Because there wasn't much to compliment on a national scale. We're calling it the "Lost Generation" this morning. I don't want to be lost. Do you?

Hebrews 3:7-19 - What's the problem? God's commentary on what we've read.

- Jude 5 Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.
- Psalm 78:32-41
- Psalm 106:24-27 "Then they despised the pleasant land, having no faith in his promise. They murmured in their tents, and did not obey the voice of the Lord. Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them that he would make them fall in the wilderness, and would make their offspring fall among the nations, scattering them among the lands."

"Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving the people of Israel" **Numbers 13:1-2**

- Why send spies into the land? Is this a coincidence? We've find ourselves asking this question often when studying the history of Israel. Or for that matter individuals.
- In life, it seems clear that God wants you to get your eyes and hands on what's in front of you. That is, He's not looking to protect you from the realities of life. What will you do when you go in and see the land is great, but there's a great obstacle in front of you?
 - Have you ever struggled following through with something that results in greatness, but you're not willing to climb the mountain?
 - They were talking about a promised land. That's the context. Now I'm talking to you about your life. Let's start on things that are important, but not what are main priorities in life are: health, career, hobbies (musician, athlete, artist, carpentry, mechanic, etc.)? Let's dive deeper: family relationships that need help, friendships, co-workers? What about enemies? Yourself? What about a better you? A you that more closely resembles Jesus? You can see the end result, but are you willing to climb the mountain? Are you ready to take the walk?

"At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land." **Numbers 13:25**

- I'd never thought about it before, but don't you think it's likely Caleb knew what they were going to say? I wonder if they were debating it on the way back. It doesn't seem to be a stretch. Imagine you're all together after a 40 day leave of absence. You think know one

voiced their concern? Caleb didn't voice disagreement? This was probably a tense moment waiting to happen for the spies as they addressed Israel.

- Brethren, there are moments in your life that will define who you are and the outcome of your life.

- It's true that somethings can happen in the moment, unpredictable, and life changing. But, many life changing moments do not, and we're given our "40 days" to think it over. I've seen up close and personal those who have made horrible choices. Sometimes they may seem like they're "in the moment", but the reality is hearts were not as they should be and it led to making horrible choices that altered the rest of their lives. This was one bad decision after another, but it finally caught up with them. That's the thing about rebellion . . . it catches up to you one day or another. You begin to think you can get away with it. Sin has deceived you.

"Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt." **Numbers 14:4**

- We've got to understand their point of view. They promised freedom and a home. They finally receive the report and lose all hope. What's the point? Their dreams were crushed and now they're abandoned in the wilderness.

- What do you think God is doing, or allowing to happen, to you?

- Are you frustrated with the Lord right now? Who do you take it to?
 - It's a tricky balance. We need to check our hearts, but we also need to be open with the Lord. We may be upset in a way that's not appropriate, but we need to acknowledge it and confess it to the Lord. We may be afraid or unsure and it's causing frustration and understandably so. We need to express that to the Lord. If not, it's going to build resentment between you and God. They went too far because they didn't believe the best in the Lord. They questioned His motive, not only for themselves, but those whom they loved as if God did not share their love.
 - Is your concern really for others, or is it more about yourself. I fear that sometimes we pull others into the argument or the excuse when it really doesn't have to do with anyone else. It's really about you - just be careful and aware of yourself.
- They asked for another leader. It's almost funny how we can complain (as if we know how to do everything better), yet notice how they attempt to stay together. They ask for someone else to lead them. Why? Because no one wanted to go it alone - they didn't have the desire or confidence to do so. They simply weren't getting what they wanted, so they were looking to burden someone else with their complaints. Anyone want that job? And let's not overlook the obvious. In their panic and emotional state, they actually say, "Let give ourselves over as slaves again." Do you see any spiritual connection to this? Do you see what we're saying when we began to abandon God's way because we, in the moment, are too shallow or prideful to consider God's way and wisdom?

"Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us." **Numbers 14:9**

- This seems so familiar, because it's an age old story. Why don't majority see things as they truly are? Why don't we have more Calebs and Joshuas? We just don't, but we're thankful for them. Interesting how Moses ends up calling Hoshea (he saves), Joshua, which means Yahweh saves.
- We need these people in the body. People who trust in God and seek to remind and encourage their brethren, even if it's not possible.
- At the end of the day: don't let the faithless think or speak for you. Do your own thinking and speaking like Caleb and Joshua.

"How long will this people despise Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?" **Numbers 14:11**

- God is just in His punishment, but never fails to see the faithful.
- God sees it as it is, but we do not. The rebellious don't believe in God. They despise Him. Do you think anyone among of the rebellious would agree with that statement?

"But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected." **Numbers 14:31**

- God also makes it clear that they are rejected from entering, because they rejected the land (vs. 31).
- The children suffer, but are not left to die like their parents. We need to hear this: others can suffer because of our lack of trust. Israel felt like they and their children would die in the wilderness, yet their children would live.
 - The rebellious were guilty of a partial self-fulfilling prophecy. The thought all would die in the wilderness. The rebellious did, their children did not. Be careful what you think and say. We always look back at this moment when God denied their entrance into the promised land. In reality, they rejected the rest and so God left them out.

Brethren, there's a rest that remains. A rest prepared for those who believe in God. Will we reject it? That's the real question at the end of the day, is it not?