

Why Are You Afraid?

Grasshoppers and Giants

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Numbers 13:27–33
NKJV

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“There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Numbers 13:33

THE TEXT

Numbers 13:27–33 NKJV

²⁷ Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

²⁸ Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.”

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”

³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.

³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

The problem was never the size of the giants. It was the size of the report they believed about themselves. Fear enters through the ear, grows through bad math, and takes root in a broken sense of self. Ten men lost the Promised Land, and not one of them lost it to a giant. They lost it to a report, a calculation, and an identity.

Twelve men saw the same land. They all saw the same fruit, the same walls, the same giants. But they came back with two different stories. Ten of them said the land devours its inhabitants. Two of them said the land is already ours. Same giants. Same walls. Same God. The difference was never what was in front of them. The difference was what was inside of them. So the question God is really asking is not about the giants at all. It is a heart question. Why are you afraid?

Watch how fear actually works in this passage, because it moves in three stages. Fear enters through the **ear**. Fear grows through bad **math**. And fear takes root in a broken **identity**. The report you believe, the equation you run, and the mirror you look into will decide whether you inherit the promise or die in the wilderness.

MOVEMENT ONE

Fear Enters Through the Ear

We believe the report of the room over the record of God.

“And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out.” Numbers 13:32

Scripture calls it a bad report. The Hebrew word is dibbah, an evil whispering that spreads. Ten men talked, and a whole nation trembled. We like to think faith is the only thing that spreads, but fear is contagious too, and it travels on the same road faith does. It travels through the ear.

The believer today is surrounded by reports. The doctor has a report. The bank has a report. The culture has a report. The group chat has a report. We are more afraid than we should be because we have trained our ears to receive the loudest voice in the room instead of the settled Word of God. The giants did not defeat Israel. The report about the giants did. What you keep listening to is slowly deciding what you believe, and eventually what you believe decides what you do.

◆ PR THOUGHT

You will always fear what you keep listening to. Guard the gate of your ear, because whatever you rehearse in your hearing you will eventually believe in your heart.

MOVEMENT TWO

Fear Grows Through Bad Math

We do the math without God in the equation.

“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” Numbers 13:31

Notice the comparison. They measured their strength against the strength of the giants and left God out of the equation entirely. Fear is almost always horizontal arithmetic. Me versus the problem. My resources versus the mountain. My weakness versus their power. When the equation is only you and the giant, you lose every time, because you were never meant to be the deciding factor.

Caleb ran different math. Same land, same giants, same walls, and he said we are well able. The difference was not the size of the giant. It was who he counted in the equation. Ten men calculated themselves against the giant and came up short. Caleb calculated the giant against God and came up more than enough. Believers are afraid because they keep calculating a battle that God already promised to fight.

◆ PR THOUGHT

Faith adds the one variable fear always forgets. When you put God back into the equation, the giant does not shrink, but suddenly you are no longer the deciding factor.

MOVEMENT THREE

Fear Takes Root in a Broken Identity

We see ourselves as grasshoppers before we ever face a giant.

“We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” Numbers 13:33

Here is the deepest wound in the passage. The defeat happened on the inside before a single sword was drawn. And read it carefully. Scripture never records the giants calling them grasshoppers. They said it about themselves first, and then they projected it onto the enemy. The way you see yourself becomes the way you assume everyone sees you.

This is the root fear beneath all the others. It is not the fear of the giant. It is a fear rooted in a broken identity. When you see yourself as small, everything begins to look like a threat. Believers are afraid because they have forgotten whose they are. A grasshopper identity will forfeit your inheritance faster than any giant ever could. The enemy does not have to defeat you if he can convince you to define yourself before the battle even begins.

◆ PR THOUGHT

You are not what the giant says. You are not even what you say when you are afraid. You are what God says. Recover the identity and you recover the courage.

THE LANDING

From a But to a Distortion

Watch the progression, because fear does not stay still. Verse 27 is truth. They said the land truly flows with milk and honey, and here is its fruit. Verse 28 is the nevertheless. The people are strong and the cities are fortified. Verse 32 is slander. The land devours its inhabitants. Unchecked fear grows from a but into a full distortion of what God said. It rarely starts as a lie. It usually starts as a true observation that we allow to grow louder than the promise.

Two men saw the same giants and inherited the land. The difference was never the giant. It was the report, the math, and the mirror. So change what you listen to. Change who you count. Change how you see yourself. The report you believe, the equation you run, and the identity you carry will decide whether you inherit the promise or die in the wilderness. And hear this before you leave. The land is already yours.

◆ PR THOUGHT

Verse 27 is truth. Verse 28 is the nevertheless. Verse 32 is slander. Do not let a nevertheless grow into a distortion of what God actually said.

THE RESPONSE

Three Things to Carry Out

Fear was defeated in this passage the same way it is defeated in your life, one report, one equation, and one mirror at a time. So this week, do these three things on purpose.

1. Name the report you have been rehearsing, and set it beside the Word of God.
2. Redo the math with God in the equation, out loud, over the exact thing you fear.
3. Reject the grasshopper mirror and speak the identity God gave you.

Change what you listen to. Change who you count. Change how you see yourself. Two men believed a different report and walked into the promise. You can be one of them.

SUNDAY DECLARATION

“I will not fear what I keep listening to. I will put God back in the equation. I am not a grasshopper. I am what God says I am. The giants are real, but the land is already mine.”

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