

# “I Spy with My Little Eye”

*Num. 13:1-3;16-20*

## Open:

- Story
  - God instructs Moses to go and **search** out the land they had been promised. **vs. 1-15**
  - Moses chooses 12 men, one from each tribe, to go and **spy** out the land of Canaan. **vs. 16-20**
  - When the spies reached Canaan, they found it to be more than they could have imagined. **vs. 23-25**
- Results
  - The spies returned with **physical evidence** of how fruitful the land was. **vs. 26**
  - The spies returned with a **verbal description** of how wonderful the land was that they had seen. **vs. 27**
  - The spies discouraged the people, by shifting the people’s focus to potential problems. **vs. 28-29**
- Conclusion
  - Caleb and Joshua attempted to redirect people’s attention to the promises of God. **vs. 30**
  - The people choose to feast on the negativity instead of focusing on the promise. **vs. 31-33**

## Tran:

- Was God wrong in His execution of His plan? Did God set His children up for failure by exposing them to the possible difficulties of Canaan’s conquest? What is the difference between “Searching” and “Spying”?
  - **Search** = *To uncover or to explore. (Land) – Num. 13:2*
    - God wanted to give His people a glimpse of what was in store for the obedient; while man wanted to make sure he understood the likeliness of victory before obeying God. *“God wants us to see that victory is possible; while man wants to find out if victory is probable.”*
    - God wanted to have His promises proved to His people so they would rest assured in His power and ability to provide.
    - God did not have to give proof of victory; but He wanted His people to have peace and confidence while pressing on to victory. **Heb. 11:1** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”*
    - God did not want them to obtain information about the difficulties that would lie ahead; He wanted them to show the goodness that lied ahead for those who will be obedient.
  - **Spy** = *To obtain secret information about the enemy. (People) – Num.13:17*
    - “Too often things don’t work out as they should because we do what we think God wants us to do instead of doing what God told us to do.”
    - Man wanted to have more security about his chances of success. How much more security do we need other than God’s promises. **vs. 18-20**
    - It is in man’s very nature to be distracted from the possibilities and to focus on the negativities.
    - Man wants to understand the full scope before he puts his neck on the line.
- The 12 spies return from the land of promise and showed all the people the provisions and the spies even told them of the plentifulness of the land; but in the end, they discouraged the people by casting doubt on God’s ability to provide their needs and fulfill His promise to them. **vs. 25-29**
  - Think about it...The 12 spies spent 40 days walking the very ground they had been promised for almost 1,000 years and ended up perishing in the wilderness.
  - So many see proof of God’s provisions all around them, and yet they still choose to believe the negativity and the naysayers who publish evil reports, instead of standing firm on the promises of God’s Word.
  - Too often it is those who are closest to seeing the victory that discourage those who have never breathed the air of Canaan.
- Sadly, the children of Israel believed the evil reports of man instead of trusting in the power of God. **vs. 30-33**
  - Caleb reassures them that God is able to deliver the victory. **vs. 30**
  - Doubters cause the people to shift their focus from a Powerful God to a populated people. **vs. 31-33**
  - We find the faithless weeping in fear while the faithful weep in disappointment.
    - Weeping in fear. **Num. 14:1-4**
    - Weeping in disappointment. **Num. 14: 5-9**

## App:

- God wants us to see that victory is not only possible; but promised.
- Don't live your life judging your chances of success by what man says; base your life and your actions on the promises of God's Words.
- Guard yourself from believing those who cast doubt on the chances of success for those who obey God.

## I. **The Work of God is urgent.** – *“Do not allow man to convince you that procrastination is proper while performing of God's Work.”*

- Do not delay in your doing of what God has instructed you to do. The Devil will use your delay in obedience as an opportunity to cast doubt on your ability to do what God has already told you that you can do.
- a. Getting the gospel out. **John 9:4** *“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”*
  - b. Gathering those who have strayed. **Is. 61:1** *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”*
  - c. Giving compassion to those who have been hurt. **Lk. 19:41** *“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,”*
- *“The Children of Israel allowed carnal man to cast doubt on their ability to accomplish the work that God had already given them victory over. Today, many Christians are allowing carnal man to cast doubt on God's ability to do a work in an area of life that victory has already been promised.”*

## II. **The Way we view life is important.** – *“Do not allow man to diminish the value of your service to God.”*

- Do not allow fear or carnal man to cause you to view the probability of victory based on present circumstances instead of viewing victory in light of the promises of God's Word.
    - Man's view of the probability of victory. **Num, 13:32-33**
    - God's promises for victory. **Lev. 26:6-12**
- a. Am I focused on the promises, provisions, and power of God? **I John 5:4** *“or whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*
    - i. He has promised victory.
    - ii. He has provided every need both spiritually and monetarily.
    - iii. He has already shown His power in a mighty way.
  - b. Am I focused on other people, potential problems, and the puniness of man?
    - i. The Sanballat's and Tobiah's. **Nehemiah 4:2-3** *“And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? [3] Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.”*
    - ii. Those who claim that the risk of faith is not worth the reward of faith.
    - iii. Those who live focused on doing God's Will in man's ability.
- *“Too many are perishing on the precipice of prosperity because they are listening to man's propaganda instead of standing on God's promises.”*

### III. Where God wants you to be is everything.

- a. God did not want His people living in Egypt.
  - i. The carnal man's view of God's plan. – **Num. 14:2-4** “*And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! [3] And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? [4] And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*”  
The spiritual man's view of Gods plan. – **Num. 14:7-9** “*And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. [8] If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. [9] Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*”
  - ii. **Gal. 4:9** “*But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*”
- b. God did not want His people perishing in the wilderness, He simply sought to increase their faith so they could be successful in Canaan.
  - i. God gave them the proper leadership.
  - ii. God gave them His promise.
  - iii. God provided an avenue of progress. [Red Sea parted]
- c. God wants His people to prosper *in* Canaan.
  - i. Church to grow. – **Matt. 16:18** “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”
  - ii. Lives to be changed. – **II Cor. 5:17** “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”
  - iii. Fulfilled life. – **Jer. 29:11-13** “*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. [12] Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. [13] And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*”

#### **Close:**

- The faithless who choose to ignore the promises of God, the provisions of God, and the power of God perished; because they chose to focus on the potential problems, the population of the people, and the puniness of man.
- Will you believe God's promises, or will you listen to man's propaganda [evil report]?”

---

### **Gal. 4:9**

*“But now, after that ye have known God...how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”*