

THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX (Fear or Unbelief) Num 13:26-33

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Israel led out of bondage
 - 1. God directed Moses to deliver them
 - 2. God led them, sustained and protected them
- B. Soon came to land of promise
 - 1. Spies reported God had fulfilled promise Num 13:1-33
 - 2. Two spies said they could take land (Joshua & Caleb)
 - 3. Ten said they couldn't - incited fear - we were like grasshoppers in their sight and ours

DISCUSSION:

I. MANY CHRISTIANS OFTEN DEVELOP THIS ATTITUDE

- A. Belittle themselves by underestimating influence & ability
 - 1. We ask: "What can I do" I'm so insignificant."
 - 2. Without God we are of little importance, so we shouldn't become proud or highminded
 - 3. With God, Christian is the salt of the earth and the light of the world Matt 5:13,14
- B. The problem is one of will
 - 1. Insisting on our own will - we are of no use to God
 - 2. In subjection, we become instrument of righteousness Rom 6:13 with every ability we possess
- C. Alone we are in the minority, with God even one person is in the majority.
- D. Note some examples of this attitude

II. MOSES - deliver Israel from Egypt EX 3 & 4 (No ability to speak)

- A. Moses showed humility, which is needed - "Who am I that I should go?"
- B. God did not expect Moses to do this alone
 - 1. Certainly I will be with thee
 - 2. God will draw nigh unto us Jas 4:8
- C. Moses wanted to escape responsibility - "I cannot go."
 - 1. Not motivated completely by humility
 - 2. They will not believe me - God offered signs
 - 3. I am not eloquent - slow of speech
 - 4. God asked "who hath made man's mouth?"
 - 5. Gave him Aaron to be his spokesman
- D. How often Christians convince themselves they can do nothing, and, thus, live an effortless life.
- E. What will the Lord say to them in the judgment?

III. GIDEON - to save Israel from midianites Jud 6:11 - 7:24 (Poor - don't have enough money)

- A. Gideon was skeptical
 - 1. Wherewith shall I save Israel - my family is poor
 - 2. I am the least in my father's house

- B. God promised to be with him
 - 1. Gideon wanted a sign Jud 6:36ff
 - 2. Many fail because they depend on sight not faith
- C. Signs have already been given Jhn 20:30,31
- D. Gideon's attitude produces a grasshopper complex
- E. Need humility - Also need attitude of Paul Phil 4:13

III. DAVID - face giant (no one had more right to feel this way) 1Sam 16 & 17 (16:11) (youth - ability - proper equipment)

- A. Youngest in family, not invited when Samuel, man of God, came to his house
- B. David was considered by his father and brothers to not be of any importance
- C. This only inflamed David with a desire to do what was right depending on God for what he lacked
- D. David with God's help performed many great feats
- E. If in David's shoes what would we have done?

IV. ELIJAH - God's prophet to Israel 1Ki 19:1-18 (19:10) (Only one - no one will help me)

- A. Tying to live as close to God as possible when it seemed everyone had forsaken him
- B. Take away my life Elijah requested
 - 1. Israel forsaken covenant, thrown down altars
 - 2. Reign of Ahab and Jezebel, immoral worship of Baal
 - 3. Had slain the prophets and seeking Elijah
- C. Elijah must have felt like a grasshopper on the sidewalks of New York City
- D. Would make anyone want to quit - Yet God showed Elijah his power and told him he still had 7,000 faithful & he had work to do

V. OUR ATTITUDE TODAY

- A. Somebody says: "If I just had money, etc."
 - 1. But many times we don't
 - 2. So we dream on in idleness
- B. If I just had more time - all have equal time Jas 4:13-17
- C. With Jesus whatever we have is enough Jhn 6:5-14
 - 1. Enough to feed one boy yet Jesus fed over 5,000
 - 2. Not how much, but spirit in which we offer or use it
- D. We must use the talents we have Matt 25:14-30
- E. God gives the increase 1Cor 3:6,7
- F. God does the calculating we just plant and water

CONCLUSION:

- A. Too often Christians don't realize potential as they ought
- B. Every Christian should manifest Christ for others to see
- C. The Spirit of God can direct our lives that each one may be a giant in this world, if we humble ourselves to His will
- D. Is it fear or unbelief? Note: Phil 4:13 & Matt 28:20