



## “They Said It Couldn’t Be Done”

**Sermon Texts: Numbers 13:26-33**

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The story outlined in this morning’s text clearly demonstrates what can happen when a people’s belief system is negatively attacked. The Bible is full of stories of people who accomplished unbelievable feats because of their belief in God. Paul says, “All things are possible for those who can believe and are called to His purpose.” What one believes can determine whether he/she will experience success or failure. This is an ancient story that has so many very poignant and significant lessons for us today, if we take the time to meditate on what The Word of God is trying to teach us.

In this 13th chapter of Numbers, God told the Israelites that the promise land was rich and fertile. Not only that, He promised that this bountiful land would be theirs. As a competent leader, Moses sent out spies to assess the people and the land to determine his military strategy. When the spies reported back to Moses, they gave plenty of good reasons for entering the land, but they couldn’t stop focusing on their fear. Talk of giants (descendants of Anak) and fortified cities made it easy to forget about God’s promise to help. When facing a tough decision, don’t let the negatives cause you to lose sight of the positives. Weigh both sides carefully. Don’t let potential difficulties blind you to God’s power to help and His promise to guide.

When the report was given by the spies, the people had to decide either to enter the land or retreat. They chose to retreat and were condemned to 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. They didn’t have enough faith to believe in God’s ability to deliver the land, instead they listened to ten men who said “we can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” THEY SAID, “IT COULDN’T BE DONE” and the people believed them. Caleb in verse 30 said “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” Caleb sided with God and believed they could be victorious, but the people believed the spies report that they couldn’t and “THEY DIDN’T!!”

Historical ledgers are overflowing with accounts of ordinary people who have faced extraordinary tasks. In each instance some naysayer said that what they were attempting to do couldn’t be done. We’ve all encountered people or circumstances that imply that what we are attempting to do, can’t be done. We listen to them and take our focus off what God has promised to those who love, trust, and obey Him. That’s when we miss our God ordained blessing. God wants to give us all He has promised, but we listen and believe those who say “That it can’t be done.” Remember and never forget, “Unbelief bars the door to the abundant life.” Just as ignorance, fear, and unbelief prevented the children of Israel from initially entering the promised land, so many of us are putting in our minds and believing that we can’t be or do all that God requires of us.

God is still in the blessing business. He is still healing people and mending broken hearts. He is continuing not to only listen to our prayers, but He answers them. If you are going through a period in your life where your belief system is being attacked by those who tell you that what you’re attempting to achieve can’t be done, I want you to rethink your position. Reflect on God’s personal promise to you that says “Come unto Me all who are weary, tired, desponded, discouraged, disheartened, disappointed and I will restore you faith.”

God wants you to believe in Him and His promise of eternal life for all of those who refuse to believe in the modern day spies who tell them--that What God promises can’t be done.

Give your life and dreams to God and don’t ever let doubt destroy YOUR blessings

*Pastor Gerald L. Durley*