

## Brynmawr Family Church, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### INTRO

Couple of years ago – Joshua and Jericho. First half = Hollywood! Second half = hard work...

Starts with 13:1-7

“Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, “You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.....[lists the land and rulers]....I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel. Only allot the land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have commanded you. Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance to the nine tribes and half tribe of Manasseh.”

Faith! The God who calls things into being that are not! ([Romans 4:17](#))

Following chapters, two different responses

### 1) Caleb

#### READ JOSHUA 14:6-15

- Sent out as a spy from Kadesh-barnea
- Faith in the face of giants of the land and fortified cities
- Promised he would inherit the land (Deut....)
- Patiently waits in the desert 40 years while the rest of his generation dies out for their lack of faith – tempted to knock them off!
- Finally they come to the promised land, Jericho, Ai, cities fall, land is taken, settlement begins.
- Through it all he wholeheartedly obeyed the LORD.
- Still taking time – 5 years

Time comes for dividing up the land...

#### Caleb’s Response

Amazes me about Caleb’s response – he chooses the hard way. Anakim, fortified cities.

Cruising can happen to us at any age – certainly has to me recently.

This city is of great significance.

- Named after the greatest of the Anakim
- Hebron becomes a city of refuge, peace, city of the levites

- Historically, great meaning to Israel
  - Abe & lot separate, Abe walks the land and settles at Hebron – altar (Genesis 13)
  - Sarah died there, Abe bought cave (Gen 23) – Abe, Isaac, Jacob were all buried there.

What an encouragement to his leaders! Chapter 15 – drives out the 3 sons of Anak.

## 2) Manasseh

### READ Chapter 17:12-18

- Manasseh says “It’s hard work! Give us more land!”
- Ok, you can have the hills.
- Not enough! And we can’t settle in the plains you gave us because of the Canaanites with their chariots!
- Joshua rebukes them gently I think.

Stark contrast to Caleb’s response. And there’s a lot more of them!

### Challenge you – what is your response?

You have a new church building, an amazing gift of God in remarkable circumstances! But there is still much work to be done. Resources to be spent. “Yes, God has given this to us!” or “It’s too hard, give us something else!”

In the meantime, there is a town to be won.

It’s not just about clearing out a building, like Caleb did to Hebron. But filling it with souls.

Your personal inheritance is the building, and eternity. But God has also entrusted us with the gospel. If we don’t go out into the town, it won’t be won.

Significant – once the job was done... **Land had rest.**

## When Faith is Low

Caleb was a great man of faith. Often we don't feel it! Low energy, low motivation. Ground down by the desert years.

**Had an interesting week.** Wedding. Interview in NZ. Funeral.

**Funeral** – lovely lady, smile, troubles. One phrase encouraged her to have faith – in my Father's house are many rooms.

Mustard seed of faith. Jesus said kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed. I put 100's in my sandwich with my beef! Plant a mustard seed, grows larger than all the other plants and becomes a tree, so the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.

- Jesus was sown. Kingdom started in humble beginnings – birth and death of Jesus. Grow, glory will fill all of space and eternity! If you leave this life with a mustard seed of faith in Him, you will inherit riches. Flourish for eternity!
- So also, if you have the faith of a mustard seed you can move mountains. The smallest faith that truly connects with Christ, connects you with all the power you need to see it done. Eternal Father! That is all you need to wholeheartedly obey.

So don't sit back. Act. Get involved. Patiently waiting for promises is an active waiting.

Caleb wouldn't have taken the city if he didn't act. The nation of Israel wouldn't have existed if Abraham hadn't acted! Promise of children, yet 100 years old. Sit back and wait for a virgin birth? No, you need to do something!

**JP: "God steers moving ships."**

Be in the word and prayer, and be faithful in the ministry in front of you.

You are not alone – Rhiwbina stands with you. Catalyst network. Great people you can get connected with and build each other up.

Let me encourage you!

- **God's word is powerful and effective and calls into being things that are not.**
- **Phil 1:6** "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"
- **1 Thess 5:24** "He who calls you is faithful, he will surely do it."