Dealing with Difficulty

Greg Kline · Numbers 13:1–14:10

INTRODUCTION

- We don't just emphasize how God is to be worshipped, but how God is to be trusted even in the most difficult, darkest hour.
- Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel.
- I want us to see a people who look like we do, when we don't ultimately show the trust that we should and must have as children of his.

1 When the Way Is Difficult, Remember God

Numbers 13:27–33; Deuteronomy 31:6; Matthew 7:13–14

- When the way is difficult, we need to remember God.
- Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them. For it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.
- The physical was able to overcome their faith in God.
- That's when it's difficult. And yet that's the exact time we have to remember God.
- What do we remember about God? What he has done for us, what he has promised us.
- This verse means that it will take constant commitment and understanding that if I trust in God, if I give my life over to him, he will deliver as he has promised.

2 We Have to Trust in God's Ways

Numbers 14:1–4; Isaiah 55:8–9; Proverbs 3:5–6

- Why is this happening to me? Or sometimes, moreover, why is this not happening to me?
- The answer is not just be more faithful. That's not the point of the lesson. We have to trust in God's ways.
- We have to remember our God that He has promised us great things, but that the victory is not in this life.
- I think his number one tool is discouragement.
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart. do not lean on your own understanding. And all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
- That doesn't mean it will be easy. It doesn't mean it'll be great. But it does mean that our God is great.

3 When Everyone Around Seems to Doubt, Hold to the Faith

Numbers 14:5–10

- If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey.
- Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones.

- Then I have to be able to stand up against everyone around who's gonna doubt, try to compromise, or even come right at you with all that they have.
- We have to be willing to stand up for what's right. The only way to do that is if we first understand that God needs to be trusted.
- When we doubt, remember what he has done. When we don't understand, trust in his ways. And when everyone around seems to doubt, hold to the faith.

4 I Will Remember the Deeds of the Lord

Psalm 77:1–20

- Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?
- I will remember the deeds of the Lord. Yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds.
- What did Asaph do when he was questioning where is God? He didn't turn back.
- That doesn't mean we need to chastise ourselves. It means we need to look and trust to God.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **When the time is dark, always remember what you learned about God in the light.**

MY NOTES