**CONFLICTING REPORTS**

Sunday School Lesson 15

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

Numbers 13

4/20/2025

**Lesson Review:** Last week, we looked at a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dispute that took place between Moses and his siblings (Aaron and Miriam). This dispute likely took place as a result of Moses’ breaking point (Numbers 11). We noted that Aaron and Miriam lost \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Moses after his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was visible. They no longer saw anything \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about Moses’ leadership. While Moses was a sinner and flesh and blood like they were, he had been chosen by the Lord to lead the people. The power of God upon Moses was what made Moses special. We also noticed that Aaron and Miriam viewed themselves as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Moses, so there was no reason to continue following him. After all, God had given them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ just like Moses. The second main point we observed was that Aaron and Miriam used an \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make a very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ attack against Moses. They took issue with his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even though it was something that had already taken place. In the end, they just needed to find something to speak against Moses in order to justify their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against him. God called the three of them together to meet with Him. He made sure that the family issue was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and properly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Lord also made it clear which party was of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mindset. He dealt heavily with the one who was responsible for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the rebellion. After the encounter, Moses was swift to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He had no desire to see Aaron or Miriam \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. For today’s lesson, we finally see Israel at the doorstep of the Promised Land! The spies of Israel bring their report.

1. **THE LORD WANTED SPIES FROM ISRAEL TO GO AND SEARCH THE LAND OF PROMISE.**
2. **Notice that the Lord was the One who called for Moses to assemble spies to go and see the land that He had promised to them.** *Numbers 13:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2a Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: 18 And see the land, what it is, and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; 19 And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds;* The land was already theirs. God promised to give it to them. The mission was not to see if the land could be taken but to witness its goodness and prepare to receive it. Similarly, when Christ came, He came to fulfill a mission already determined by the Heavenly Father. The death and resurrection were never in doubt. The empty tomb wasn’t a surprise to God; it was the fulfillment of the promise. The question is not whether the resurrection is true, but whether we will receive the report and believe it.
3. **Notice that the Lord was specific in wanting a leader from every tribe to go and see the land.** *Numbers 13:2b of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. 3 And Moses by the commandment of the Lord sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. 16 These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua.* The Lord wanted a representative from each tribe to see the land firsthand. These were leaders, not just followers. These men should have been faithful witnesses of the Lord’s promise. Sadly, they largely failed to bring back a good report. Moses renaming Oshea “Jehoshua” (Joshua, meaning “Jehovah is salvation”) is an important note in this chapter. Joshua believed in the salvation of the Lord. Looking at the resurrection, we see that the Lord revealed His promise to His disciples. They were His faithful witnesses.
4. **THE SPIES SAW WHAT THEY WANTED TO SEE. TEN SAW EVIL. TWO SAW GOOD.**
5. **Notice that their lack of faith caused ten of the spies to see a land of impossibility. They did not see the promise of God in the land.** *Numbers 13:31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.* Fear and unbelief distorted the view of ten of the spies. They saw only giants and death, not promise and deliverance. In the same way, there were those who responded in unbelief when the news of Christ’s resurrection reached them. Consider that the Jewish leaders did not entertain thoughts of Christ’s resurrection. They quickly focused on covering it up instead. Even the disciples viewed the women’s report as silly at first. They were afraid!
6. **Notice that their faith in the Lord caused two of the spies to see a land of possibility. They believed they could easily overcome the obstacles there.** *Numbers 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. 14:7 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.* Caleb and Joshua saw the same land, but their faith let them see something completely different. Where others saw obstacles, they saw opportunity. Where others saw defeat, they saw deliverance. The resurrection of Christ looks like foolishness to the world, but to the believer, it is the very power of God. We believe that He rose from the dead, not because we saw the tomb, but because we trust in the living Word.
7. **THE PEOPLE HAD A CHOICE TO BELIEVE THE EVIL OR THE GOOD REPORT.**
8. **Notice that the people gave no attention to Caleb’s good report. They were quick to be defeated by the evil report.** *Numbers 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2 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?* Despite all they had seen God do in Egypt and the wilderness, they chose to believe the bad news. The same is true today—many hear about Christ’s resurrection and reject it. The women came with a good report, the angels confirmed it, and the tomb was empty. Yet some still refused to believe. It’s amazing how quick people are to believe bad. Too often, we hear what we want to hear. Just like Israel at the edge of Canaan, the choice is ultimately ours to believe or reject.
9. **Notice that the people were warned to trust the report that was consistent with God’s Word. They responded in anger and violence.** *Numbers 14:9 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. 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.* Joshua and Caleb pleaded with the people to trust the Word of the Lord. “The Lord is with us: fear them not.” Their warning was rejected, and the people nearly killed them for it. In the New Testament, the apostles were likewise threatened, beaten, and even killed for preaching the resurrection. But truth remains truth. Rejecting it does not remove its power.
10. **THE PROMISE OF GOD BECAME UNATTAINABLE FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE.**
11. **Notice that the Lord barred the unbelieving people from ever going to the Promised Land.** *Numbers 14:21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. 22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:* The tragedy of Numbers 14 is not that God removed His promise; it’s that the people forfeited it by unbelief. God had offered life, victory, and a wonderful land of milk and honey, but they chose fear and rebellion. The resurrection of Christ offers eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and victory over death, but to those who do not believe, that promise becomes unattainable. It is not because God is unwilling to save, but because man refuses to trust in His Word.
12. **Notice that the people tried to change their minds, but their opportunity had passed.** *Numbers 14:40 And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the Lord hath promised: for we have sinned. 42 Go not up, for the Lord is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. 44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.* When the people realized what they had lost, they tried to reclaim the promise, but it was too late. Their sorrow was real, but their opportunity was gone. They tried to take the land in their own strength, but the Lord was not with them. The resurrection is a call to act now, while there is still time. One day the door will be shut. Today is the day of salvation. We must believe and receive Christ’s resurrection while there is still time.