

Series: New Year Reminders

Sermon: Wholly Follow The LORD

Passage: Various

Illustration:

Need: Following Jesus with your whole heart and life demands your attention remain Him who way bigger than all fearful circumstances.

I. Caleb: A Wholly Follower

- God had given the promised land of Canaan to the Israelites to possess. (**Num. 13:1-2**)
- Caleb - a leader of Judah chosen to spy out the land of Canaan for 40 days. (**Num. 13:3, 6**)
- Contrary to the fear of the other spies Caleb (and Joshua) believed God would do what He promised and give them the land. (**Num. 13:25-14:9**)
- God judged the Israelite's rebellion but blessed Caleb for his faith. (**Num. 14:24, 30, 37-38**)
- 45 years later, Caleb (85 yrs old) still believed God and requested the "scary land" to conquer and possess through God's presence. (**Josh. 14:6-14; 15:14**)
- Two major points we learn from Caleb: (Trent Butler, Word Bible Commentary)
 1. Life in all its dimensions is to be lived according to the plans of God, not the ideas of man.
 2. Blessing comes ultimately to the one who wholly follows God.

II. Jesus: The Holy One Who Wholly Followed

- Jesus followed wholly the plan of God to become human in humble weakness.
- Jesus followed wholly the plan of God to endure rejection and slander.
- Jesus followed wholly the plan of God to lay down His life as a ransom for sinners.
- Jesus experienced God's blessing as the victorious Firstborn from the dead.
- Jesus calls us to Wholly Follow Him. (**John 14:23-24; Heb. 12:1-2**)

III. 2023 Reminder #1: Wholly Follow the LORD!

- Identify the Calebs in the body and spend lots of time with them.
- Obey God's Word no matter how dangerous, ridiculous or impossible it seems to the fearful around you.
- Refuse to retire from the faith. The LORD is with us until the end, keep storming the hills!