



**CEO's Devotional –
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Same Facts But Different Conclusions

In Numbers 13 the Lord had Moses send one man from each of the 12 tribes to explore Canaan, the Promised Land. They came back with a report and showed them the fruit of the land. Numbers 13:27-29 speaks of the account they gave to Moses: *"We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is the fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."*

Verse 30, *"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."*

Verse 31-32, *"But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.' And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored."*

Twelve men go into Canaan, see the same thing...there is no disagreement as to what they saw. Everyone saw the fruit and a lot of big, well-armed enemies, but the conclusions they drew and the actions they recommended were diametrically opposed. Caleb and Joshua focused on the fruit and God's command to "take the land" while the others focused on the enemy and the impossibility of them taking the land from those inhabitants.

Read Chapter 14 for more of the drama, but this is a classic example of choosing between God's way, which seems suicidal in human terms, and man's way. Because the people chose man's way, they "wandered" for 40 years (instead of traveling a very short distance from Egypt to Canaan).

In Numbers 14: 22-24 the Lord says *"not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times --- not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it."*

God could not be clearer in this account of Caleb and the Promised Land. How do we become more like Caleb and Joshua and not like the others? How do we stay focused on where God is leading us instead of on the difficulties, hardships, and impossibilities of the assignment He has given us? What "land" is God calling you to take, where you are struggling to be obedient to what you know He is calling you too?