

Father's Day – 2006

Dads Who Are in it for Life

Numbers 13-14 & Joshua 14-15

Main Idea: Caleb is one of the great men of faith in the Bible, but we rarely stop to remember that he was also a great father. In this study, we want to look at three marks of a great father from the life of Caleb.

1. *1ST MARK – Father's with a long-term perspective are men who lead themselves well through the setbacks of life. Joshua 14:6-11*

- A. *In his younger years* – Caleb was a great leader. Numbers 13:1, 30; 14:6-10
 - 1. He was born a slave in the land of Egypt.
 - 2. He distinguished himself as a leader in his tribe. Num. 13:1
 - 3. He scouted out the Promise Land, and came back with a good report. 13:30; 14:6-10
- B. *In the middle of his life* – Caleb encountered a series of setbacks. Num. 13:31-33; 14:1-4, 20-25
 - 1. His good leadership is shunned by the nation. 13:31-33; 14:1-4
 - 2. He is prevented from going into the Promise Land...at least for a time. 14:20-25
 - 3. He watches his family die in the wilderness.
- C. *In the latter half of his life* – Caleb nourished his dreams and placed his hope in God. Jos. 14:6-12
 - 1. Emotionally: He courageously held fast to the promises of God for 45 years! 14:6-9
 - 2. Physically: He had kept his body fit and strong. 14:10-11
 - 3. Spiritually: He is prepared to live a radical life of faith. 14:12
- D. *The end result* – Caleb was a man who finished his life extremely well. Jos. 14:13-14
- E. *Application* – Great fathers practice the disciplines of self-leadership...*so they can finish well.*

2. *2ND MARK – Fathers with a long-term perspective prepare their children for marriage. Jos. 15:14 ff*

- A. *Caleb's personal standards* – He is living at the highest level of his faith. 15:13-14
 - 1. Caleb approaches three of the greatest warriors in the land.
 - 2. Caleb drives out the enemy according to God's command.
- B. *Caleb's standards for his children* – He desires a godly spouse for his child. 15:16-17
 - 1. Caleb's challenge: He will give his daughter to the man who wins the battle. 15:15
 - 2. Caleb's passion: He wants the greatest man of faith in the land for his daughter. 15:16
- C. *Caleb's reward* – His daughter marries Othniel. 15:17
 - 1. Othniel was Caleb's nephew, and he captures the city of Debir. 15:17
 - 2. Othniel becomes the 1st judge, and one of four judges who had God's spirit. Judges 3:10
 - 3. Othniel develops an enduring reputation. 1 Chronicles 27:15
- D. *Application* – Fathers, prepare our children for marriage: prayer, modeling and vision casting.

3. *3RD MARK – Fathers with a long-term perspective think about providing for their children, both when they are young and old. Joshua 15:13-20*

- A. The request – His daughter requests a very valuable piece of property. 15:18-19a
- B. The response – Caleb gives her double the request. 15:19b
- C. Application – Fathers, it is a mark of wisdom to wisely pass on wealth to your children.
 - 1. Passing on an inheritance in a wise way is a biblical value. Pro. 13:22; 19:14; 20:21
 - 2. Passing on an inheritance must be done with a clear purpose.