

Remnant Life Church
September 13, 2015
The Delay of Carnality
Numbers 13:26-33; 14:10-16, 20

- A common word used in church today is carnal or carnality
- What does it mean?
 - (Web. def.) relating to or given to crude physical pleasures and appetites
 - In the church it is used as another word to describe the flesh nature of man that is contrary to the spirit nature of God
 - It can also, however, be applied to the Christian's life as well
 - The Carnal Christian is someone who, in their immaturity, is not influenced or controlled by the Holy Spirit but rather by his/her lower, flesh nature.
- It was the carnality of the Israelite men and women that led to their wandering in the desert for 40 years when they were at the entrance to the Promised Land
- **READ** the account from **Numbers 13** and **14**
- The people had already begun to slide away from God leading up to their downfall of carnality
 - **Chapter 11** – it begins with complaining about their difficulties and, specifically, no meat to eat (11:1,4)
 - Even Moses voices his own disbelief in God's power (11:21-22)
 - The people hoarded and dried the quail meat demonstrating an unbelief in God's power to sustain them (11:32)
 - **Chapter 12** – Miriam and Aaron complain that they are not being recognized in the same way that Moses is (12:1-2)
 - This all took place **after** the 10 plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud and fire, brining water from the rocks, etc...
 - Sin very often will slowly work its way into your life but that also gives you the opportunity to spot it if you are willing to look for it (ex: man cheating on his wife)
 - The people's carnality (pleasures of their flesh) were influencing and controlling their actions and it kept them from their promised land
- The enemy wants to keep you from your promise land today
- What is the "Promised Land?"
 1. God's destination for your life
 2. His place of fulfillment (satisfaction) for you
 3. His place of a life of joy
 4. His place of physical, emotional, and spiritual prosperity
 5. His place of peace
- If those are the places God wants us to reach, how is it that we position ourselves to miss them?
- The same way the Israelites did and the consequences will be very similar
- This happens in four primary ways:

1. When you fix your attention on the obstacles rather than the objective
 - Fear replaces your faith
 - When the spies were sent out their mission was to come back and recommend strategies for the best way to take the land not determine if they could
 - The land was exactly what God told them it would be (13:27)
 - But they also saw things that God had not told them (13:28)
 - Obstacles are the things that will frighten you when you take your eyes off of the objective given to you by God
 - In these times your vision changes:
 - # You stop using your spiritual eyes which is where you can see and hold to the promises of God
 - # Instead you are using your natural eyes which can only see what is physically right in front of you
 - When you focus on the difficulties and possible dangers you will never take the necessary risks
2. When you compare what you lack compared to what others have
 - Intimidation will replace your confidence
 - When you insist on measuring yourself through comparison things will look like grasshoppers to giants (13:33)
 - The Israelites were not grasshoppers in God's sight nor in the sight of the Hittites, the Jebusites, the Amorites, or the Canaanites
 - They were only grasshoppers in their own sight
 - When they compared themselves to everyone else they took their eyes off of God and fear was able to come in (14:1)
 - They left the realm of the supernatural place of God's provision and ran to the limited place of the natural
3. When you allow that fear to take control of your life circumstances
 - Your desire for relief will overwhelm your courage
 - Their fear whipped them into an all-night pity-party
 - They were even prepared to go back into the slavery of Egypt (14:3)
 - Many are the same way today
 - # At the first sign of discomfort or things getting hard they want to rush right back into their place of captivity
 - # I wonder how many of you this morning are still in your place of captivity because it got difficult?
 - Then they looked to blame their leadership (14:4)
 - There will be always someone who will lead you back into the things of the past
4. When you set your mind to disobey you will miss out on the depth of God's instruction for your life
 - Your goal becomes instant self-gratification and relief of your difficulties rather than the cultivation of character through a difficult and challenging journey
 - And there is nothing that you will not do to get your relief

- No circumstance, no person, no truth, and no consequence will prevent you from getting what you want
 - As a result, there is no growth, there is no increase, and there is no blessing
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- An entire generation of people lost out on the blessing that God had in store for them
 - They wandered in the desert with the knowledge that they were headed in the wrong direction
 - Those times in your life very quickly demonstrate and expose the maturity of your walk with God
 - You can talk a great game, look like you have it all together, and fool a lot of people but you may also never get out of your desert and into the promised land that God has waiting for you
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- Keep your eyes on God's objective not the obstacles
 - Don't compare yourself to anyone else or any other circumstances
 - Refuse to allow fear to enter in
 - Set your mind, body, and spirit with an unwavering commitment to obey God and His Word