

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 22nd April 2012

Mike Griffiths

HOW TO GET **AHEAD**

Numbers 13:17-21 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath.

v27-33 They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 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.” 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. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

God has plans for you. Plans for a positive, blessed future.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

If you are going to get ahead in life you must:

1. Get used to obstacles.

There will be giants!

“We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”

2. Get familiar with what intimidates you .

They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

1 Kings 17:1 (NIV) Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

3. Believe God’s perspective, not the devils propaganda.

We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them. Grasshopper or Giant killer? Who are you going to believe?

Joshua 2:9-11 (NIV) [Rahab] said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

God will make a way for you.

He will deal with your weakness, so you can walk in your strength.

Joshua 3:16 (NIV) ...the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

Romans 5:12,17-19 (NIV) “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...”

Romans 5:45 (NIV) So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:18 “Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.”

John 15:15-16 (NIV) ...“I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit---fruit that will last.”

It’s time to get ahead.

CHECK OUT MORE RESOURCES ONLINE

www.elimchristiancentre.org.nz