

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 7: "Warrior Part 2"

What a great sermon last week as we learned more about the genre of biblical narrative. This week is part two of a three part series examining select Scriptures within this genre. The study will reflect much of the same as last week. However, the only difference is we want to simply continue to practice what we are learning.

We hope that you grow in a better understanding of this genre this next week. In doing so we will examine:

- ▶ A brief review of Ex. 3:1-10, 11-12, 13-15, 4:1-9, 10-12, 13-17 as discussed on Sunday by Pastor Miles.
- ▶ A closer in-depth look at Tuesday's devotion in Numbers 13.
- ▶ Optional weekly challenges to help grow in devotion to Christ and His Word.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening:

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 6 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 6 Weekly Challenge:

1. Recite **Joshua 1:9**.
2. Discuss experiences practicing the **Discipline of Simplicity**.

Small Group Sermon Discussion:

1. Review the narrative of Exodus 3:1-10, 11-12, 13-15, 4:1-9, 10-12, 13-17 as discussed in the sermon last week. Review the basic narrative observations below to better understanding these texts.
 - ▶ Narratives are stories of God's attempt to redeem humanity to a right relationship with Himself.
 - ▶ Narratives involve real people, places, and times.
 - ▶ Narratives are stories about how God uses imperfect people who trust Him to accomplish extraordinary things by trusting Him.
 - ▶ Narratives explain what did happen, but not necessarily what will happen to you.
 - ▶ Narratives don't teach but illustrate doctrine and theological concepts.
 - ▶ Narratives illustrate how to be more like Jesus.
2. Using the (6) Narrative Observations, what new insights did you learn about Exodus 3:1-10, 11-12, 13-15, 4:1-9, 10-12, 13-17 from the sermon on Sunday?
 - ▶ **Author:** Traditionally by Moses.
 - ▶ **Characters:** God, Moses, and Pharaoh.
 - ▶ **Drama/Plot:** Moses is fearful of pursuing God's call based upon his own insecurities. Satan will attempt to use this fear to hinder Moses, but will eventually fail.
 - ▶ **Plot Resolution:** Moses is resisting God's call on his life.
 - ▶ **Dialogue:** Between God and Moses, about a further discussion Moses will have with Pharaoh (cf. 3:10).

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Numbers 13

Read Numbers 13:

Numbers is the fourth book of the Pentateuch in the Law of Moses. The reason it is called Numbers is primarily due to the censuses that were done in chapters 1-4, and in chapter 26. Below is a brief list of the major themes of the book of Numbers:

- ▶ States the preparations for the departure from Sinai (cf. Num. 1:1-10:10).
- ▶ A brief list of the laws that were given and the events that occurred during the first thirty-seven years in the wilderness (cf. Num. 15:1-19:22).
- ▶ Includes history of the last year in the wilderness, from their second arrival in Kadesh until they reached the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho (cf. Num. 20:1-36:13).

With this brief overview of the major themes of the book, we can properly understand the setting of what is taking place in chapter 13. Chapter 13 describes the command for the Israelites to spy out the land that God was about to provide for them. They were also commanded to give a report of the land they spied out to Moses. Rather than this simply being the end of the wandering in the wilderness, it would end up creating a lot more friction and disobedience in the hearts of Israel. Rather than jumping ahead, we simply want to examine the actual event of the spying of the land, so that we would be better prepared to continue further.

- ▶ Read Numbers 13 as a group.

Reflect Numbers 13:

They have actually spied out the land! They didn't get caught, and were even able to take some of the ripe grapes of the land. They even affirm that the land is flowing with milk and honey as promised (cf. 13:27). The reflection should be simple at first glance, but really examine all they experienced.

1. List and discuss all the different observations they had when they spied out the land.

- ▶ First ripe grapes were ready (cf. 13:20).
- ▶ Flowed with milk and honey (cf. 13:27)
- ▶ People in the land were strong and large (cf. 13:28).
- ▶ Descendants of Anak were there, as well as the Nephilim, the sons of Anak (cf. 13:28, 32-33).

2. What is so significant about the Nephilim listed in 13:33?

- ▶ They were giants. Compared to the Israelites they were grasshoppers (cf. 13:33b).

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Number 13

(continued)

- ▶ Nephilim were the offspring of marriages between the “sons of God” and the “daughters of men” (cf. Gen. 6:4). The word literally means giants. Some scholars believe they were offspring from mighty warriors before the flood. Regardless, they were very large and intimidating beings.

Respond Numbers 13:

1. Fear and doubt were filled deep in the hearts of Israel as they reported what they saw in the land. After all the promises and miracles they witnessed they still doubted. In what ways can you relate to their story?

- ▶ This could be things people are going through right now, or have dealt with in the past.

2. How did God show He was faithful, despite the disobedience or doubt?

- ▶ Much like the first question, how can we deal with the situation right now, or how have they dealt with it in the past?

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (June 14-20)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” **Phil. 4:6 (NASB)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.searchgodsword.org and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Fasting.**

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

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The discipline of fasting is sometimes misunderstood and rarely practiced in Christianity in the twenty-first century. The purpose for fasting was a position of the great preacher John Wesley, this following quote showed the importance of fasting to the preacher:

“Wesley was convinced that fasting, abstaining from food or drink, was a practice firmly grounded in the Bible. People in Old Testament times fasted (Ezra 8:23). So did Jesus and his followers (Matthew 4:2; Acts 13:3), and Wesley saw no reason why modern Christians should not follow the same pattern. His plan of fasting sometimes allowed for limited eating and drinking. He found that fasting advanced holiness.”

Wesley was known to having a weekly pattern for fasting. For the better part of his life he would fast on Wednesdays and Fridays, and in the latter part, on Fridays only. He did this to grow closer to God. As should be the only reason for fasting, to deny your flesh of its desire in order to pursue righteousness and His holiness.

We challenge you this week to fast at least one day this week. Specifically, to deny yourself food in order to devote yourself to prayer, study, and complete devotion to a Holy God. Please do this discipline with that in mind. Very often people will fast for personal health reasons, or religious obligation. Rather we want to do this as a form of worship and means of growing closer to God.

* John Wesley: Holiness of Heart and Life copyright © 1996 Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., p. 33.