

A MAN WHO AGED WELL

(Joshua 14:6-12)

I. Communication from God (Joshua 14:6).

- a. Notice the phrase “the Lord said”.
- b. This is where Caleb’s aging process began.
 - i. Caleb was interested in what the Lord said.
 - ii. What the Lord said is recorded in Numbers 14:24.
- c. Think of all the voices to which he could have listened.
 - i. He could have listened to his 10 fellow spies.
 - ii. He could have listened to the crowd of people who wanted to kill Moses and Aaron and go back to Egypt.
- d. There are many voices clamoring for our attention today.
 - i. Society is telling us things that aren’t true.
 - ii. There may be people who are close to us who are saying things that aren’t in our best interest.
 - iii. There are voices everywhere giving advice that God would never give.
- e. What we must do in order to age well is take time to hear what the Lord has said.
- f. That is found in only one place and that is the Bible.
 - i. God’s not going to speak to us in some audible voice.
 - ii. He doesn’t come to us in a dream.
 - iii. He speaks to us through the gospel and we must listen only to Him.
- g. It is the same lamp that the psalmist used and praised and it will get us to the same place he wanted to go.

II. Conviction about God (Joshua 14:7).

- a. Success is determined by people in different ways.
 - i. There are personal standards – what my own view is.
 - ii. There are public standards – what the public’s view is.
 - iii. There are preeminent standards – what God says success is.
- b. Caleb was not interested in what his own thoughts were or the thoughts of those around him – he only cared about what God thought.
- c. To Caleb, whatever God said was right.
- d. There are too many people with a wavering conviction to God and His word.
- e. Paul wrote to the Ephesians and encouraged them not to be carried about by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14).
- f. Hebrews 11:6.
- g. Caleb had that type of faith when he was 40 (Numbers 14:6-9).
- h. He had it when he was 85.

- i. It is only with unwavering conviction about God that Caleb remained faithful and it will only be with the same type faith you and I will remain faithful and age well spiritually.

III. Commitment to God (Joshua 14:8).

- a. Caleb reminded Joshua that he had wholly followed the Lord and it was God who had first said this of him.
- b. This was the attitude of the Psalmist (Psalm 16:8).
- c. This was the desire of Paul (Philippians 3:13).
- d. Caleb was the type of person who did not care what others said or did.
 - i. His main desire was to please God.
 - ii. He realized that what God thought of him was the key, not other men.
 - iii. Someone has said if you please God it doesn't matter who you displease, but if you displease God, it doesn't matter who you please.
- e. Getting rejected by the people when he gave his good report along with Joshua could have caused him quit.
 - i. He might have felt that no one listened to him so he didn't matter.
 - ii. Instead, he remained faithful and was able to enter promised land and take the land that had been promised to him.
- f. A heart fully given to God will accomplish all God wants and will allow the possessor of that heart to age well spiritually.

IV. Confidence in God (Joshua 14:9-10).

- a. Caleb said that God had kept him alive just as He said.
 - i. The NIV has, "just as the Lord promised".
 - ii. Caleb knew that God was true to His word.
- b. Will we stay faithful as we age or will we fall away?
- c. This rests a great deal on how much confidence we have in God.
- d. Caleb was convinced and we must be as well, that God keeps His promises.
 - i. He has promised us that He won't leave us.
 - ii. He has promised to meet our needs.
 - iii. He has promised us heaven.
- e. As we age, we need to remind ourselves of the first two promises and how God has fulfilled them.
- f. The reason for doing that is to give us confidence that He will keep the last one.

V. Consistency for God (Joshua 14:10-11).

- a. Though 45 years had passed since Caleb had stood for God before the people, he was still the same man in heart and will.
- b. He could do that because he was consistent in his living for God.
- c. He had overcome grasshoppers.
 - i. This is what the 10 spies had said about themselves as they viewed the people who occupied the promised land.

- ii. They were looking at the people of the land from the eye of man and Caleb looked through the eye of faith.
 - iii. Caleb had to overcome the negativity of the crowd and be faithful.
 - iv. There are people around us that say we can't do this or that, or whatever it may be.
 - v. If we want to age well, we must overcome them and live for God.
 - d. He had overcome giants.
 - i. Some in the promised land were giants it seemed.
 - ii. Large, tall men far different from any of the Israelites.
 - iii. This didn't matter to Caleb.
 - iv. Even the land that was promised to him had to be taken from men of that great stature.
 - v. It still didn't matter to Caleb because God had told him he could have it and he believed in God.
 - e. He overcame grey hairs.
 - i. How many 85 year-olds do you know that would say, "Give me this mountain"?
 - ii. He could have sat back and said I've done my part.
 - iii. Caleb did not allow age to stop him from realizing the promises of God.

VI. Conquering through God (Joshua 14:12).

- a. If so the Lord will be with me.
- b. Caleb knew that he could conquer Hebron with God being with Him.
- c. Paul said I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- d. Paul also said that we must be good soldiers of Jesus Christ.
- e. There are difficult tasks ahead in life, and we don't know what all of them will be.
 - i. There will be physical and spiritual battles to fight.
 - ii. Do we believe like Caleb did that through God we can still conquer whatever mountain is before us?

Sermon outline from an unknown source.