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).
   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.