

**Trapped In a Bad Relationship
With Bad Decision Makers**

January 15, 2023

1. Trapped In the **Wrong Place** (Have you ever stayed some place too long?)
2. Trapped In **Fear** (Have you ever allowed your fears to block your potential?)
3. Trapped In a **Relationship** (Are you suffering because your friends made bad decisions?)
4. Trapped In the **Wilderness** (How do you manage a long-term bondage; a 40-year issue)

Statement: Joshua and Caleb were trapped with disobedient people that refused to change. The people around them made bad decisions and left them with bad options.

Question: Have you ever been trapped because of someone else?

Side Question: How was Joshua and Caleb trapped by the people they served with?

- They were forced to waste 40 years wandering in the wilderness
- They were forced to reap what they did not sow
- They were forced to watch millions die because of disobedience

Text: Numbers 14:26–35 (NIV):

Four Signs They Were Trapped

1. They Grumbled and Complained: Do you grumble?

- 26 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: 27 “How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the **complaints** of these grumbling Israelites.

2. They Missed Their Big Chance: Will you miss your big chance?

- 28 So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say: 29 In this wilderness your **bodies will fall**—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. 30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

3. Their Children Suffered Because of Their Disobedience: Will your children suffer?

- 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness.
- **33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness**, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. 34 For forty years—one



year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you. ’

4. They Lost the Favor of God on Their Lives: Will You lose favor?

- 35 I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die.”

Next Time: Trapped in the Wilderness

Big Question: How do you manage long-term bondage?