



Trapped by Fear

January 8, 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)

Big Question: Have you ever been trapped by your fears?

Repeated Side Question: Have you ever allowed your fears to block your potential?

Text: Numbers 13:17–33 (NIV):

I. The Assignment That Intimidated Israel

- 17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country.
- **18 See what the land is like** and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.
- **19 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?
- **20 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.)



- 21 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath.

II. The Specifics of Their Assignment

(Seven Things They Checked For)

1. Check out the **land** (v18)
2. Check out the **people** (v18)
3. Check out their **strength** (v18)
4. Check out the **living conditions** (v19)
5. Check out the **soil** (v20)
6. Check out the **trees** (v20)
7. Check out the **fruit** (v20)

Note: They were **never sent to determine if they could** win a battle! It was their job to report what they saw.

III. The Negative Report That Changed Everything

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 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.** **28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large.** We even saw **descendants of Anak there.** 29 **The Amalekites** live in the Negev; **the Hittites, Jebusites** and **Amorites** live in the hill country; and the **Canaanites** live near the sea and along the Jordan."

Seven Conclusions They Came To

1. The land is like milk and honey (v27) ...good
2. The people are powerful (v28) ...true
3. The cities are fortified and very large (v28) ...true
4. The descendants of Anak are there (v28) ...true
5. The main enemies of Israel are there (five nations in all, v27-29) ...true
6. The people are too strong to attack (v31) ...FEAR (**Out of bounds strategically**)
7. They spread a bad report about the land (v32) ...FEAR (**Out of bounds verbally**)

Note: Fear Driven Moments

- 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, **“We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”**
- 32 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.
- 33 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.”

Note: Faith Driven Moments

- 30 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.”
- 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”

Extreme Fear Driven Moment



- 32 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. 33 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.”

Conclusion: How do you deal with your fears?

1. Give a name to your fear (Say out loud what intimidates you; James 5:16)
2. Give power to your faith (Israel allowed its power to be stripped away)
3. Spend time with people who believe in your Promised Land

Next Time: Trapped with Bad Decision Makers

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