

Josh & CJ

Scripture: *Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I promised Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob; because they have not followed me wholeheartedly: save CALEB son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, & JOSHUA the son of Nun: for they have followed me completely.- Numbers 32:11-12*

Joshua and Caleb (son of Jephunneh- so C.J. for short) have been friends since birthed. They have played ball together, spent the night at each other's house, and been best friends forever. They had heard stories from family members about what life was like back in their home country, but for these two boys, they never had experienced that. Their whole life had consisted of pyramids, hot summers in the desert, camel rides, chariot races (better than the Kentucky Derby), horse back riding camps, yet it also included hard work, manual labor, long hours, and the fact they knew they were slaves under a brutal task master/boss named Pharaoh. However, things had recently changed for Josh and C.J. They had seen someone come into the company and challenge the boss. This new up and coming, yet shy and stuttering, man was named Moses. After a series of miraculous events, Moses has taken the reigns of a multibillion dollar, and multimillion employeeed, company. After traveling for hundreds of miles on foot, camels, donkeys, and horses, being camped around a mountain for what seemed like forever, and crazily following a cloud/fire tour guided GPS, they are now at the threshold of HOME. Oh what excitement and elation these two best friends must have had. Moses, the more seasoned veteran, had seen their youthfulness blossom into strong leadership qualities. Therefore he selects them to help lead a team of ten others (12 total counting Josh & CJ) to explore the new home land. Upon arriving, the twelve men began to break off and begin making mental notes of this land. Finally, the day comes when they all return with their notes, souvenirs, and stories to share with Moses and all the family. Moses begins the meeting by asking all to come up and share what they saw. One after one share, and to C.J. & Josh's horror, the other ten found more negatives than positives about going to their new home. It seemed like the people wanted to stay in Egypt. However, Josh & C.J. wasn't going to allow that. It was now their turn. They shared how it was true that there were giants, obstacles, fortified cities with big walls, but there was also much land, fresh pastures for animals, lots of water, huge amounts of produce, and beautiful scenery. They shared how God had already promised them the land IF the rest of Israel would build up their courage and go take it. Unfortunately, the rest of Israel didn't feel that way and decided to take the report of the other ten men. Now God is upset and we see the background of Numbers 32. This was God's punishment for not obeying. It's hard to obey at times, especially when the majority outweighs the minority. It is God's desire for us to stand up for Him, and do so alone (like 3 Hebrews boys & Daniel) if necessary. Don't get bogged down in the mire of self pity and depressed. Find you some other believers in your school, church, etc. and do the what God tells you so that He can fulfill His will for your life!

Prayer: Lord, teach me stand strong in the midst of opposition. Let me be more like Josh & C.J. who trusted you when all else didn't. Help me face my giants and conquer them. In Jesus name, Amen!

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