

STRONG & COURAGEOUS: “Wholeheartedly” - Rev. Jeremy Bates**Sermon Notes: November 16, 2025****Text: Joshua 14:6-14****Introduction**

What gives someone the courage to face giants at 85 years old? In Joshua 14, Caleb shows us what it looks like to live strong, courageous, and wholehearted. This message will challenge your attitude, ignite your faith, and remind you that God's promises don't have an expiry date. Get ready to rediscover your “why” and step boldly into the future God has for you!

“He who has a WHY to live for can bear almost any HOW.”
Viktor Frankl

Arc of the Biblical Narrative: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration

- OT shows God forming a people to reveal His character to the world.
- NT: God fulfilling His promise through Jesus to rescue the world.
- OT is the story of God shaping a people to shine His light.
- NT is the story of God sending His Light to save the world.

“Caleb, son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite...” - God has always grafted outsiders into the family of God.

1) A Person of Conviction

- Numbers 13:28-33
- Fear always: Magnifies the Problem, Minimizes your Potential, Mixes up the Truth
- Caleb's positivity wasn't just part of his personality, it was the result of his theology.
- 2 Timothy 1:12, Romans 8:31, Hebrews 13:6
- Don't let the circumstances around you change your convictions about God's character or power.
- Every obstacle is an opportunity to trust God.
- How often do I pray: God, change THIS? change THEM? change ME?

2) A Person of Heart - “I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God.” v8

- Ezekiel 11:19

3) A Person of Legacy

- We think in minutes & moments, right here, right now. God thinks in generations. v14
- Legacy is not what you accomplish, it's what other people accomplish because of you.
- Hebron: Promised to Abraham, Given to Caleb, Established as capital city by David.
- We think that what God does for us, is for us...but also generations to come!



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

At 85 years old Caleb was still tackling giants, when others were intimidated to, seeing themselves as “grasshoppers”. For this icebreaker, read the everyday scenarios below, after each scenario, group members must quickly decide: “Giant!” = I would face this head-on or “Grasshopper!” = This one intimidates me!

- Sending back food at a restaurant when the order is wrong
- Sharing your faith with a coworker
- Speaking in front of a group in public
- Confronting someone who has butt in line in front of you
- Cooking a meal for first time guests at your house
- Going to the gym for the first time in years
- Joining a ministry team at church

Feel free to add any of your own!

Study & Discussion:

Read Joshua 14:6-14, Numbers 13:25-33, Numbers 14:22-25

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Pastor Jeremy said, we can measure our prayers by how often we ask God to change THIS, change THEM or change ME. What did you think about that?

Caleb saw obstacles as opportunities. Share a time when God used a tough situation to shape your faith instead of changing your circumstances.

3) Pastor Jeremy mentioned the effects of fear on our perspective, that fear: Magnifies the Problem, Minimizes your Potential, Mixes up the Truth. Is there one that is most prevalent in your life? What do you do when you recognize it happening?

4) Caleb lived with future generations in mind. What spiritual legacy have you benefitted from of others who have gone before you and what do you hope to leave behind? What steps are you taking now to build it?

PRAYER:

