



MATTHEW 6

## *The Lilies of The Valley*

### **Message of Hope and Faith:**

Many people has failed in life because they gave up too soon!

The story of Caleb records that for forty years he waited for a promised reward.

Through no fault of his own the reward was postponed. If Caleb had looked at the circumstances, or listened to the people around him, he would have lost his faith and given up hope.

But he trusted YHVH and refused to be a quitter. Seven years after the crossing of Jordan, peace and quiet finally descended over the land. Then it was time to divide the land among the various tribes.

Joshua and Eleazar began to do this, under YHVH's guidance, by means of casting lots. But before the Bible gives us details of this division of the land among the tribes, it draws our attention to an inheritance, given to an individual after eighty-five years - Caleb was 85 years old at this point.

The Faith and Hope that Caleb had.

Forty-five years is a long time to wait for a promised reward. Some folk Caleb's age would have given up long before, and made a graceful exit into a rocking chair, but not Caleb. He still followed YHVH in triumphant faith. He still stood on YHVH's Word and Faith in YHVH's Promise.

Finally, his opportunity came to claim the promise when Joshua subdued the Canaanites and peace came. Caleb's Inheritance Came Before The Inheritance Was Given To Each Tribe. Because the Lord wants us to know that His blessings are individual as well as corporate.

YHVH wanted every single individual to share personally in the blessings of the land "flowing with milk and honey".

Each tribe was now being given an opportunity to "mop up" what was left of the Canaanites, who were hiding in corners of the land. Some had even slipped back into cities conquered by Joshua.

After seven years of war - the zeal of many was beginning to slacken, and there was a danger of losing some of the fruits of victory.

Then the 85-year-old Caleb came forward and roused the people to action by his example. For 45 years the Word of YHVH been his inspiration and hope. He knew what it meant to stand on YHVHs Word, and now he reaffirmed his stand.

It was Faith that Believed YHVH could overcome every difficulty or barrier - giants, or walled cities did not frighten him;

Faith that expected YHVH to keep His promises;

Faith that showed he was active in his relationship to YHVH (verse 8).

Caleb's testimony in verses 10 and 11 shows that at 40, Caleb had expressed his faith by declaring that he believed YHVH could and would do something.

Now at 85, he adds his testimony and thanks YHVH for the fact that He had kept him alive. His generation was now all dead, except he and Joshua, who had survived the "wilderness wanderings" and deaths on the battlefields of Canaan. He could now claim the inheritance as one who had lived through it all.

He did not take LIFE for granted, because life is a God-given privilege. Caleb was still as strong at 85 as he was at 40 - he was still able and willing to face giants.

The secret is that those who serve YHVH in their youth will have nothing to fear as they grow older. We will gain our future leaders and believers from our faithful young ones. Caleb was obviously a man testifying to vigour and strength and health and healing as a product of his close walk with YHVH.

He understood Yahveh's healing name - "I AM YHVH THAT HEALETH THEE." Caleb, in verse 12, shows that he was not one living in the past. Some older people live in the past - but not Caleb. He remembered the past with gratitude for YHVH's faithfulness, but he had not lost his vision for service.

He did not ask for any easy place where he could spend his remaining years in peace and quietness. He wanted to do something for the Master .

He took the promises of YHVH; not as a deserved reward, but as an opportunity to exercise faith and claim new victories. So he asked for the hardest place of all, a place where giants were entrenched and where the fierce Anakim guarded the cities. In war, the officers sent the most trustworthy, faithful soldiers to the hardest places in battle.

After all, how can we experience a great victory unless we are willing to face great opposition and great difficulty?

You will notice that although he thanked YHVH for his vigour and strength, he was not depending on that. Instead, he confesses his need of YHVH's help and demonstrates a faith firmly grounded on YHVH's promise.

He knew the true name YHVH and prayed to a God of Truth and in Him he could trust.

Dont give up too soon. Be patient and wait on YHVH. He is truthful in His promise.

Be blessed and stay blessed 