



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 11

Lesson Title: Trust the Rescuer for Victory

Take Home Point: When we feel like a loser, we need to trust God our rescuer for victory.

Warm-Up:

"I can't do it." Have you ever said those words, or heard someone else say them? Sometimes they are good words, such as when we are tempted to do something we know is wrong. But too often they are used when we face a difficulty that seems too much for us. Perhaps we face such emotional pain we can't see how we can bear it. Or, we have to go back into a situation that stresses us so much we think it will overwhelm our strength. Sometimes in these circumstances, it is much easier to see the obstacle than envision success, and we doubt not only ourselves but also our God.

Read: Number 13 & 14

Observation (What happened?):

How did the people respond to the reports of the 12 spies regarding Canaan and its inhabitants?

Why did the Lord require them to wander in the desert for 40 years?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Can you think of reasons why the people still did not trust God after the miracles they saw in their deliverance from Egypt?

Do you think the Israelites didn't want to go into God's Promised Land?

Insight:

What happened to the Israelites here? Why did they fall into unbelief so quickly? Do you think they wanted to go back to slavery? I'm sure they didn't see it that way. But they took their eyes off God's presence, looked at their circumstances, and were filled with fear. I think the tendency is to read this account and roll our eyes at what seems to be such foolish fear and grumbling. Ye, how different is it from us? When a family member is diagnosed with a fatal illness; when you lose your job; when your child is intent on making wrong life-changing choices; when you are faced with what seems an impossible situation, do you always keep your focus on what God can do, or do you sometimes become fearful, wish you were somewhere else, and grumble against God? We all fail in this at times, and how wonderful it is to know that God forgives us just as he forgave them.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What promise of God is hard for you to believe now because of your circumstances? What do you think God wants you to do?

Write down some practical ideas you can apply to remember God's faithfulness and promises when you face circumstances that seem too big to overcome.