

Life Lesson 44
Conquering the Land
Text: Joshua 14

Introduction

Conquering the land was a big job for the Israelites. It took many years to accomplish. By the time Joshua was about 100 years old, he was too old to be the leader anymore. There were still land to conquer, though. God had a plan for finishing up the conquest.

The Story

God commanded Joshua to divide the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. Each tribe would have their own section of land to conquer and settle. Some sections were harder to conquer than others. The Anakims lived in one mountain. They were so big they were almost giants. Not very many people wanted that section of land to conquer!

Someone did, though. Do you remember Caleb, the other spy who agreed with Joshua that God could give them the land? The other ten spies were afraid and talked the other Israelites into refusing to enter the land. Only Joshua and Caleb trusted God and so only they were left alive. All the other adults had died in the wilderness.

Now Caleb said, "Forty years ago I wholly followed God when no one else would believe. He promised me he would keep me alive and let me live to enjoy the promised land. Now here I am, still going strong even though I am old. Now let me have this mountain, the one the Anakims live on. I'll trust God to give me the strength to conquer it."

Caleb was an old man, but he wasn't afraid. He was ready to march right in where younger, stronger men were afraid to go. That's because he had learned early in his life a very important lesson. If God wants you to do something, He will give you the strength and ability to

do it. Maybe there will be times when you will have to stand alone. Maybe everyone but you will want to do wrong, and you will have to do right without any encouragement. If God calls you to do something, He will give you the grace and ability to do it, just as He did for Caleb.

Caleb DID conquer the mountain and lived there with his family.

God helped the other tribes, too, and all the enemies were driven out of the land. They planted their crops and lived in peace. It was just like God said it would be. It truly was a land “flowing with milk and honey.”

Joshua was very old by now and feeble with age. He called the elders of the people before him to say good-bye and to give his final advice.

“God has given you victory over the nations that lived in this land,” Joshua told the elders. “Be sure you don’t have anything more to do with them. Don’t marry the women of other nations because they might tempt you to worship their false gods. Don’t ever, ever, worship other gods, but always love and serve the true God who has done so much for you.”

Joshua then reminded them of the many things that God had done for them. There were so many examples of God’s lovingkindness. Surely, the Israelites ought to love and serve Him.

The people enjoyed the land God gave them. They served and worshiped Him all the time that Joshua lived and all during the time that the elders who ruled with Joshua lived.

The Life Lesson

Can you think of some things God has done for you? It’s important to have special days like Thanksgiving to take time to thank God for all He has done for us. If we think about what we want and don’t have, we are unhappy and grouchy. If we just think about what God has done for us, it makes us thankful and happy. God has done so very much for us! He has done just as

much for us as He did for the Israelites. We should spend time praising and thanking Him on Thanksgiving, and on every day.

Review Questions

How was the last of the land conquered?

Joshua divided it up among the twelve tribes. Each tribe conquered their own land.

Why did no one want the mountain where the Anakims lived?

Because they were giant people.

Who asked for the mountain of giants?

Caleb

Did Caleb and his family conquer the giants?

Yes

What advice did Joshua give the Israelites before he died?

Don=t marry women who worship other gods and don=t EVER worship any other god.