

## FORK IN THE ROAD

### Choose Wisely

### Choose Faith Over Fear

Pastor Steve Reynolds

E. Fear traps you in depression and withdrawal.

<sup>1</sup> *"So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.*

<sup>2</sup> *And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, 'If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!'"* Numbers 14:1-2

F. Fear traps you in missed opportunities.

<sup>36</sup> *"Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land,*

<sup>37</sup> *those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD.*

Numbers 14:36-37

<sup>19</sup> *"So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."*

Hebrews 3:19

### III. REAP THE BENEFITS OF SEEING WITH FAITH

Faith is confident obedience to the Word of God regardless of consequences or circumstances.

A. Faith gives courage.

<sup>30</sup> *"Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.'" Numbers 13:30*

B. Faith gives obedience.

<sup>9</sup> *"Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them." Numbers 14:9*

C. Faith gives "Promised Land" opportunities.

<sup>38</sup> *"But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land." Numbers 14:38*

### CHOOSE FAITH OVER FEAR

#### Introduction:

A. Every day we face critical life choices that shape our future decisions about faith, relationships, priorities, and adversity.

B. In the Fork In The Road Teaching Series we'll explore how God guides His people when life presents difficult choices.

<sup>21</sup> *"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21*

Through Scripture, prayer, and practical wisdom, we'll learn how to choose God's path by discerning His voice, avoiding costly detours, and walking confidently in His will. Because the choices we make today determine the roads we travel tomorrow.

April 5  
TODAY  
April 19  
April 26  
May 3

Choose Life Over Death  
Choose Faith Over Fear  
Choose Better Over Bitter  
Choose Right Over Wrong  
Choose Victory Over Defeat

TEXT: Numbers 14:6-9

Joshua and Caleb provide an example for us to choose faith over fear.

<sup>90</sup> *"Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them." Numbers 14:9*

## HOW TO CHOOSE FAITH OVER FEAR

Background: God freed the children of Israel after 400 years of slavery by appointing Moses to demand their release. God promised them a homeland of their own, and calls it the Promised Land. Now after crossing the desert and going through the Red Sea they are on the edge of the Promised Land. At this point Moses chooses twelve representatives, one from each of the twelve tribes, to go ahead and spy out the land and to return with a report of what they saw.

### I. RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT YOU SEE

#### A. Jesus emphasized the importance of what you see.

<sup>22</sup> *"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.*

<sup>23</sup> *But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"* Matthew 6:22-23

#### B. Moses modeled the importance of what you see.

<sup>17</sup> *"Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, 'Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains,*

<sup>18</sup> *and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many;*

<sup>19</sup> *whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds;*

<sup>20</sup> *whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land.' Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes."* Numbers 13:17-20

<sup>21</sup> *"So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath.*

<sup>22</sup> *And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)*

<sup>23</sup> *Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs.* Numbers 13:21-23

<sup>25</sup> *"And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.*

<sup>26</sup> *Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land."* Numbers 13:25-26

### II. REJECT THE TRAPS OF SEEING WITH FEAR

#### A. Fear traps you in underestimating God.

<sup>27</sup> *"Then they told him, and said: 'We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.*

<sup>28</sup> *Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there."* Numbers 13:27-28

#### B. Fear traps you in a scarcity mentality.

<sup>29</sup> *"The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."* Numbers 13:29

#### C. Fear traps you in low self-esteem.

<sup>31</sup> *"But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.'" Numbers 13:31*

#### D. Fear traps you in spreading negativity.

<sup>32</sup> *"And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, 'The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.'" Numbers 13:32*