

What Evil Tidings are Designed to Do

Psalm 112:1-10

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies (Psalm 11:7, 8)

I. We can choose to trust God or be in fear because of evil tidings

1. Tidings (Sh@muw'ah) – report, news, rumour
2. Evil – bad, disagreeable, malignant; unpleasant, evil (giving pain, unhappiness, misery)
3. To have a “fixed heart” means to have a heart that is determined and willing to accomplish the goals one has set forth. One that does not give up or back down and is not moved by negative pieces of information.
4. If we are to serve the Lord, accomplish all that He has destined us to do, and appropriate all that He has promised us, we must have a fixed heart and we must not be swayed from our position because of “evil tidings or “evil reports.”
5. A fixed heart can only come as we meditate and act upon God’s Word – Psalm 1:1-3; Matt. 7:24-27

II. Choosing to accept an evil report – Num. 13:1-33

1. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature (Num. 13:32)
2. Report (dibbah) – whispering, defamation, evil report, unfavourable saying, slander
3. The consequences for being the source of an evil report:
 - a. And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD (Num. 14:36-37).

III. What An Evil Report Is designed to do

1. It is designed to move you to focus on the circumstances than on the promises of God (Num. 13:26-29)

- a. Notice that they acknowledged that what God said about the land was true (that it flowed with milk and honey) but then they concentrated more on the obstacles confronting them than on God's promise to enable them to conquer the land.
 - b. Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them (Num. 13:2)
2. It is designed to move one to look at their inability rather than look at God's ability (Num. 14:31)
 - a. God promised to drive out the nations that they allowed themselves to be afraid of, thus trusting in their lack of ability rather than God's great ability (Ex. 33:2; 34:11, 24; Josh 1:4-5; 3:10).
3. It is designed to cause us to worry about how we may look in other's eyes rather than concern ourselves with what God's Word says about us (Num. 13:32, 33)
4. It is designed to move you to murmur and complain rather than speak faith-filled words based on the promises of God (Num. 14:1, 2)
 - a. One cannot speak faith while complaining.
5. It is designed to move you to question God's love, fidelity, character, and trustworthiness (Num. 14:3)
6. It is designed to cause you to backslide and go back to the world (Num. 14:4)
7. It is designed to prevent you from fulfilling your destiny (Num. 14:27-30)
 - a. Here are the results of murmuring against God.

IV. Joshua and Caleb – How to react to an evil report

1. Speak faith-filled words that declare victory rather than defeat (Num. 13:30)
2. Place complete confidence in God to do His part (Num. 14:7, 8)
3. Do NOT be afraid of man, circumstances, or "evil tidings" (Num. 14:9)
 - a. Also, do not expect everyone to love you and want to follow you just because you are a faith filled person (Num. 14:10)
 - b. Joshua and Caleb did not fear because their hearts were fixed, trusting in the Lord.

V. The results of reacting positively to an evil report

1. Fulfilling your destiny – Num. 14:24, 30

2. Protection from the destruction that comes upon those who believe and spread evil reports –
Num. 14:36-38