

HOW TO STARE DOWN A GIANT Adam Heather

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Numbers 14v1-9

Following on from last Sunday, with the spies going into the Promised Land, we need to learn how not to be intimidated by giants! Are we impressed by the size of the problem, or the size of God? Joshua and Caleb didn't talk about themselves, they focused on God. Jesus wasn't impressed by his enemy but was obsessed with the majesty of his Father. Thea said of her Dad when learning to cycle, "I trust you, I don't trust me."

1. The Word of God, Ps 1

We need to be single-minded - meditate on (concentrate, dwell on, think about) God day and night. Whatever demands our attention possesses our thoughts, which anchors our hearts, which becomes what we worship. You become what you think about. As we meditate on God, we can become like him, stable, grounded.

There are obstacles! Daniel Levitin (neuro-scientist) observes that 1986-2011 we now process 5x more information - we don't remember detail but we know where to find it. The Bible encourages us to meditate, to think about the Law of the Lord so that we might flourish. The way to identify fake bank notes is to study the real ones until we sense "something isn't right". Meditate on God and we'll get to know when something isn't quite right.

2. The Works of God, Ps 77v11-12, Ps 103v1, Deut 6v12

The Israelites recounted the story of the Exodus as their "beginning". There were feasts and festivals to help them remember. In Matt 16v5-12 Jesus spoke of the "yeast of the Pharisees" and reminded the disciples of the works of feeding the multitudes. David defeated Goliath (1 Sam 17) having recounted the times God was with him when facing danger (vv34-36).

We can encourage one another by telling stories of what God has done for us. It's your inheritance. Look for signs of God at work in our lives. Remember the story of the Iranian who was left a Bible at the very bench where he'd been sleeping rough. Luke 18v1-8 - the parable of the unjust judge concludes with question: when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?

Develop confidence, conviction and loyalty in the living God by being intentional disciples having festivals and celebrations of what God has done in our lives.

3. The Wonder of God, Ps 8

V3-4 *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers... what is mankind that you are mindful of them?* Where can you go to restore the wonder of God in your life? So much of our lives are in manmade environments, visit a God-made location. Otherwise our manmade problems can seem as big as God. God cares for what I care about and he isn't overwhelmed by what overwhelms me.

Anchor your heart on the majesty of God. (Slide showed starry heavens - a sign of God's grandeur). David pondered on the size of God, Caleb was single-minded. Paul says, "*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*" Col 3v2. We need to be like the 2 spies, not the 10.

These are 3 keys that will protect us as we progress with the Vision: Meditate on the Word of God, Remind ourselves of the Works of God and Cultivate the Wonder of God.

For Reflection in Collective:

- How can we encourage each other to focus and meditate on the Word of God? What Bible verses are particularly meaningful at the moment?
- What stories can we share with each other about how God is at work in our lives? How can we celebrate them?
- What helps you reflect on the Wonder of God?