

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, January 26, 2020

“2020 Vision ~ What You See is What You Get!”

Numbers 13:1-3; 13:17-14:4

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:18)

Our \_\_\_\_\_ –what we focus on and how we view the world around us—can have a profound effect on every aspect of our lives.

We can choose one of two perspectives through which to view the world—we can either look through the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_ or through the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_.

**LOOKING THROUGH THE EYES OF FEAR ~  
6 THINGS THAT CAN KEEP US FROM ENTERING OUR  
PROMISED LAND**

**#1. When we look through the eyes of fear we can be \_\_\_\_\_  
by conflicting information.**

“This was their report to Moses: ‘We arrived in the land that you sent us to see and it is indeed a magnificent country, a land flowing with milk and honey! Here is some of its fruit as proof. But the people living there are powerful, and their cities and towns are fortified and very large. We also saw the descendants of Anak who are living there.’” (Numbers 13:27)

We can get stressed out by \_\_\_\_\_ information—by the excuses, problems, road blocks, and challenges that come out of nowhere.

If we want to grow in our faith in 2020—if we want to experience the new thing that God has for us—we’re going to have let go of the big \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives, and \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

**What ‘buts’ have held you back in life?**

“With God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

**#2. When we look through the eyes of faith we can develop a mentality of \_\_\_\_\_.**

The idea that there’s no \_\_\_\_\_ for us—there’s not going to be \_\_\_\_\_ for everybody, so I better hold on and hoard what little I have. Instead of \_\_\_\_\_ or taking any risks, I’m going to batten down the hatches and hold on tight. This kind of thinking is the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.

“The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites

live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.” (Numbers 13:29)

A scarcity \_\_\_\_\_ –worrying that there won’t be enough and \_\_\_\_\_ on to what we have—keeps us from stepping into the \_\_\_\_\_ that God has for us; it keeps us from taking \_\_\_\_\_ and stepping out in faith. It’s \_\_\_\_\_, and makes us trust ourselves, instead of God.

**Have you ever succumbed to a mentality of scarcity?**

“You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need. His generosity exceeding even yours in the glory that pours from Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

**#3. When we look with the eyes of fear is we can fulfill our own \_\_\_\_\_ prophecies.**

The person who says, we can do it, and the person who says, we can’t, are both \_\_\_\_\_ because our \_\_\_\_\_ often determines the outcome.

“But the men who had gone up with Caleb said, ‘We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.’” (Numbers 13:31)

\_\_\_\_\_ are the ones who, long before the race begins, are already saying to themselves; “I can do this!” They’re already \_\_\_\_\_ themselves crossing the finish line first.

Our \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_; and positive \_\_\_\_\_ can go a long way to helping us meet our goals.

**Have you ever fallen into negative thinking?**

“As a man thinks in His heart, so he is.” (Proverbs 23:7)

**#4. When we look through the eyes of fear we can \_\_\_\_\_ everyone else with our \_\_\_\_\_.**

The thing about fear, negativity, and pessimism is that they’re highly \_\_\_\_\_, and can easily spread to others, like a virus.

“They spread a bad report about the land that they explored.” (Numbers 13:32) The fears, opinions, or negative attitudes of one person or one group quickly spreads and \_\_\_\_\_ everyone else; and before you know it, there’s \_\_\_\_\_. And when negativity spreads, fear’s grip tightens around us and \_\_\_\_\_ our chances of sharing in God’s blessings.

**What effect has your negativity had on the people around you?**

### How have you been effected by the negativity of others?

“Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” (Philippians 4:8)

#### #5. When we look through the eyes of fear we can't see past our own \_\_\_\_\_.

This is something we've all struggled with at one time or another—the fear that our \_\_\_\_\_ far exceed our \_\_\_\_\_.

“The land we explored devours those living in it!” (Numbers 13:32)

Have you ever noticed when you worry about something or fixate on a problem, it becomes \_\_\_\_\_—at least in your own mind? And pretty soon you're facing a giant problem simply because you \_\_\_\_\_ it into existence—making, as the saying goes, a mountain out of a mole hill.

“We seemed like grasshoppers in our eyes and we looked the same to them.” (Numbers 13:33)

“**in our own eyes**” = That's their own \_\_\_\_\_—they're looking through the eyes of fear and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. And whenever we compare ourselves to someone else, we always come up \_\_\_\_\_.

“**we looked the same to them**” = How do they know how they looked to them? We do this too—we \_\_\_\_\_ our own fears and inadequacies about ourselves onto other people.

We have no idea what other people are \_\_\_\_\_ about us unless we ask—it's our own eyes of fear that causes us to do this.

#### How have your own inadequacies, or your fear of what other people think about you, limited you?

“I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

#### #6. When we look through the eyes of fear we can make ourselves \_\_\_\_\_.

“Then all the people began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. And they grumbled and complained in a great chorus against their leaders, Moses and Aaron. ‘We wish we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!’” (Numbers 14:1-2)

It's interesting how quickly a negative perspective can lead to a \_\_\_\_\_

party.

### 3 ELEMENTS OF A PITY PARTY

- \_\_\_\_\_: Something goes wrong and looking through the eyes of fear, we go around \_\_\_\_\_ and moaning; “why me?”
- \_\_\_\_\_: It's funny how our fears can cause us to complain about our lot in life and \_\_\_\_\_ everybody else.
- \_\_\_\_\_: It's a sad reality that sometimes we'd rather live in \_\_\_\_\_ or die in the wilderness, so to speak, than face our own fears, step out in faith and find life and freedom. It's a sad reality that we often settle for so much \_\_\_\_\_ than what God has for us—than the abundant life that Jesus' death and resurrection offers us.

#### Have your fears ever made you miserable?

##### Have you settled or second best?

“Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

†

The antidote to a life of a fear is \_\_\_\_\_ our perspective—learning to look at the world through the eyes of faith.

It's not about what we can do or not do—it's all about \_\_\_\_\_ and what He can and will do if we are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ and to trust in Him.

Scripture tells us over and over again that faith always \_\_\_\_\_ fear. Faith creates \_\_\_\_\_, trust, and hope. Faith strengthens us, inspires us, and \_\_\_\_\_ us forward.

“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go at once and take possession of the land right now! We can certainly do this!’” (Numbers 13:30)

We can't \_\_\_\_\_ away our fears; we can't think them away; worry them away; or talk them away. All we can do is bring them to \_\_\_\_\_ and trust in Him; and then step out in \_\_\_\_\_, and let God do the rest!

#### Take an honest look at your life in this season—are you living out of faith or fear?