

Grasshoppers?

- *There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." Num 13:33*

Why did they See themselves that way?

- *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. Num 13:28*
- **Caleb's Response:**
- *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." Num 13:30*

Why did they seem as Grasshoppers?

- The Response of the 10 spies to Caleb:
- *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." Num 13:31*
- Congregation's response to these reports
- *Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." Num 14:3-4*

How God Felt about what they Saw

- *Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."*
Num 14:11-12
- The only reason they saw themselves as grasshoppers was because they did not trust or believe in God. Because they rejected God they made themselves grasshoppers.

God's People often "seem" as Grasshoppers

- Prior to the Flood Noah worked alone.
- Abraham walked with God alone.
- Only two of those who left Egypt entered.
- During the Judges, God often punished Israel and they had a single judge.
- The 10 Tribes cast off, walking among the nations.
- Judah also cast off and walking in Babylon
- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego alone against all the magicians.

Jesus' Warned His Disciples

- *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Mt. 7:13-14*
- If we are among the “*few*” who have “*found*” the “*narrow gate*” and have remained faithful as we walk the “*difficult way*” we will feel like grasshoppers unless we trust God.

Paul's Warning

- *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1Cor. 1:18*
- How are we supposed to feel when in the midst of the multitudes who see the cross as folly?
- If we allow them to influence us, we will feel just like grasshoppers.
- But if we believe it is the power of God unto salvation we will feel the power of God and be strong.

Paul's Warning

- *For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 1Cor. 1:26*
- When the gospel is preached without compromise or modification this will always be the case.
- It was God's plan.
- *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 1Cor 1:21*
- We can't change this unless we change message.

Paul's Warning

- *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.*

1Cor. 1:27-30

- What the world perceives as foolish will change from generation to generation. The wise and mighty will see folly and reject.

The Temptation

- Those who feel like grasshoppers will feel the pressure to change the message to appeal to the wise and mighty.
- Foolish things of the world today?
- Role of women in the church:
- *And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 1Tim. 2:12-14*

Foolish Things Today

● *Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. 36 Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached? 37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. 1 Cor 14:34-38*

● Do we wish we could ignore and reinterpret these words. Do they make us feel like grasshoppers?

Foolish Things Today

- *And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." Mt. 19:9*
- Some feel like grasshoppers over these words. They want to reinterpret them. We Can't.
- *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10*
- Some feel like grasshoppers when they explain that the church only works as God prepared.

Foolish Things Today

- *The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, 1 Peter 5:1-2*
- Church autonomy makes many feel like grasshoppers because it makes us small and “there is strength in numbers!”
- But if we trust God, we don't need anything else!

Foolish Things

- Homosexuality
- Water Baptism for remission of sins
- Worship in spirit and truth
- Attendance
- Weekly observance of Lord's Supper

The Wisdom of God

- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32*
- *Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. 2 John 9*
- We will NEVER be grasshoppers when we fulfill Pr. 3:5-7

