

No. 26 **Imitate, Not the Cowards, But the Courageous! (Symposium)**
—Not the Ten Chieftains, But Joshua and Caleb

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

COURAGEOUS OR COWARDLY? (1 min.)

What determines whether we will show courage when tested?

Does it depend on our circumstances and abilities?

Or does it depend on our faith and spirituality?

This symposium will highlight five situations in which people in similar circumstances responded very differently

We face similar situations today; so look for ways that you can make decisions based on faith, and act courageously

AN ASSIGNMENT THAT CALLED FOR COURAGE (1 min.)

Jehovah told Moses to select "a chieftain" from each tribe of Israel to spy out the land of Canaan (Nu 13:1-3)

As "heads of the Israelites," these men likely had the respect and trust of the people

No doubt, the 12 chosen chieftains started out with courage

So why did the courage of most of them fail?

FEAR ERODES COURAGE (2 min.)

Ten of the chieftains allowed fear of man to erode their courage (Nu 13:31-33)

These men had witnessed the Ten Plagues, the deliverance through the Red Sea, and the defeat of Pharaoh's army (w06 10/1 16-17 ¶4-6)

Despite these experiences, they lacked faith

Faced with new challenges, their courage faded (Nu 13:28, 29)

Their bad report showed great disrespect for Jehovah and eroded the faith of the entire nation (Nu 14:11; w11 7/15 10-11 ¶4-5)

What can we learn from their bad example?

It is not our experience, privileges, or abilities that determine whether we will be courageous; it is the depth of our faith

HAVING FAITH STRENGTHENS COURAGE (2 min.)

In contrast with the ten other chieftains, Joshua and Caleb were courageous

Caleb tried to calm the Israelites' fears (Nu 13:30)

Joshua and Caleb saw, not a difficulty to be avoided, but an opportunity to strengthen their faith [Read Numbers 14:7-9]

As a result, the assembly talked of stoning them (Nu 14:10)

As you watch the following dramatization, note how a young brother shows courage

VIDEO (2 min.)

IMITATE THE FAITH OF JOSHUA AND CALEB (1 min.)

Build your faith by facing challenges, not running away from them

By your speech and example, assist others to strengthen their faith

Trust that God is with you; continue to be courageous and strong

Let us give our attention to Brother _____ as he

presents the next part of this symposium, "Imitate, Not the Cowards, But the Courageous!—Not the Inhabitants of Meroz, But Jael"

TO BE COVERED IN 9 MINUTES