

# Count Me With Caleb

*Religious Liberty almost surrendered.*

What we are experiencing today in America with public policy challenges is nothing new. There are Biblical examples and precedents that we need to consider and ponder before we engage in causes.

Let's take Religious Liberty as an example. Is there a historical example where certain leaders and the people were ready to give up their religious liberty to the control of the government? Yes. In the book of Numbers we have the example of the Hebrew people being told to possess the land by the Sovereign God and He directed Moses to have the people send one leader from each tribe, 12 total, to scout and research the Promised Land. So, they provided the leaders who did the research and they came back with samples of the fruit of the land and gave their reports. The land was very fruitful, but there were giants there that would need to be removed. Caleb and Joshua gave what became the positive minority report and said, "...Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Numbers 13:30. The other 10 brought the majority report, also known as the evil report of the land or grasshopper thinkers' report, stating, "...there we saw giants...and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers..." Numbers 13:33. The report created fear and murmuring among the people to the extent they said, "...let us make a captain, and return to Egypt." Numbers 14:4. What?

Remember, this was a people that had been in bondage in Egypt working seven days a week and were given no time to worship God. They were delivered from bondage and the Ten Commandments were received by Moses to help establish a ecclesiastical/civil order for the nation with the fourth commandment providing for a day of rest (Worship). This was one of the most profound social changes in the history of the work week. Now they were willing to return to Egypt surrendering their religious liberty to worship God to the State.

How does this apply to America in 2014? We need to realize that 16% of the leadership then and probably now have the Providential View of God. We need to make sure our policies and causes are Biblical and not using fear as a motivation to guide people in a direction as it says, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shall thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment." (Exodus 23:2). In other words we should think twice before manipulating others to influence government for our personal agenda. We need to constantly keep overcoming the grasshopper thinking. Yes, there are real giants (problems) in America today, but we serve a Great God who can help us overcome them. When I get frustrated with activism today I think of Caleb and how difficult it was for him to wander 40 years with folks that did not see the Providential Hand of God. When they finally entered the Promised Land and were distributing the land he wanted the most difficult part with the giants. I appreciate the spirit of Caleb. Count me with Caleb!

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