



Stepping Beyond Reluctance

Interruptions force a choice: shut it down, or step into something new.

Interruptions are often the places where God speaks.

Numbers 13:1-2 NIV: ¹ The Lord said to Moses, ² "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

This journey isn't just a change of location—it's a change of heart.

The story isn't about geography, it's about readiness.

BeMidbar – "In the wilderness."

The wilderness is where God forms people.

The Bible conveys...

Truths through stories.

Laws through experience.

History through interpretation.

Numbers 13:17-20 NIV: ¹⁷ When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. ¹⁸ See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. ¹⁹ What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? ²⁰ How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.

Numbers 13:23-33: ²³ When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, [a] they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴ That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. ²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

²⁶ They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ 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." ³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

'tur,' to explore, to search for wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 1:13 ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens."

"What story does this story make me think of?"

Echoes of Eden,

- God brings them to a land.
- Asks them to discern whether it is good.
- They observe the trees, the fruit.
- They are deceived
- Decision to trust God or go their own way.

dibbah, a distortion of facts, partial information to highlight the negative.

The people of the land represent the obstacles that stand in the way of stepping into God's opportunities.

"Will they break from the old life, and step into new life?"

Practical and Adaptive.

Numbers is about readiness.

"Can they step into freedom?"

"Will you break from the old life, and step into new life?"

Hebrews 3:15: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

Galatians 5:1 – "It is for freedom that Jesus has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

We all carry reluctance to:

- forgive
- say yes...to say no
- confess the hidden things
- acknowledge what others see
- allow God's work
- trust God

John 3:15 and 10:10: "Whoever puts their trust in Jesus will have life that lasts forever" a life "that is abundant and full".

What new life might God be challenging you to step into?

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.