

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

May 11, 2008

"Give me this mountain"

by David King

"I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said" (Josh. 14:11-12).

Caleb was 85 years old when he spoke these words (v. 10). He had been robbed of an opportunity to enter the promised land forty years earlier when his fellow Israelites refused to go in, and he was doomed to spend the best years of his life wandering in the wilderness with this bunch of losers.

An experience like that would make most people bitter. But Caleb was not like most people. These were circumstances beyond his control, and it would serve no good purpose to become bitter over it. Rather, he chose to make the most of whatever life gave him. Even at this advanced age, he was determined to live his life to the fullest, to take on new challenges that would test his strength. His confidence was not in himself, but in the Lord, who had promised His people that they would take the land.

Caleb understood a principle that many of us struggle to grasp, namely, adversity provides opportunity for personal growth. It is only when we are faced with hardship that we must dig deep within ourselves, and find out what we are really capable of achieving.

Read the inspiring stories of prisoners of war, disaster survivors, great inventors, or victims of disease, and the same pattern emerges again and again. Those who view the difficulties before them as challenges to take on are more likely to succeed, and are stronger for the experience. Those who see the difficulties as insurmountable barriers more often lose heart and give up. The difference is not in the size of the obstacle but in the attitude of the individual.

Our challenges do not need to be of epic proportion to see this principle in action. In our every day lives, we encounter countless little "mountains" that test our willingness to push the boundaries of our endurance. Whether it's a new job assignment, or a little friction in a personal relationship that we need to work through, or a serious financial decision that we must make, we all face the same basic question: Will I take on this challenge as an adventure to be experienced, or will I take the easy way out and avoid it?

Look at your life: What are the mountains confronting you? More importantly, how are you dealing with them? Are you timidly trying to navigate around them? Are you railing about how unfair it all is, having to deal with these problems? Or are you rolling up your sleeves, looking the challenges straight in the eye, and demanding, "Give me this mountain!"?

Caleb conquered his mountain (Josh. 15:14). We, too, can conquer our mountains, if we approach them with the attitude that we will succeed.