



SPOKANE COUNTY CHAPLAINCY SERVICES



SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CHAPLAINS TO SERVE YOU

Mark Smith

Lead Chaplain

Robert Kinnune

Cliff Custer

Jake Burkholder

Fasitupe MeaFua

Teresa Smith

Gino Palomino

Office phone:

509-477-6625

P. O. Box 18752

Spokane, WA 99208

www.spokanecountychaplaincy.com

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission."

STRENGTH OVER FEAR

The Bible holds many truths as one might say, and one I know for sure is that God's promises are true. I'm drawn to the event in Numbers 13-15 where the Israelites were about to finally be given the promise by God to go into the Promised land. Twelve of the Israelites went ahead to "recon" the mission and report back. It was everything and more you could expect from one of God's promises. Actually, two of the men had to shoulder carry one single cluster of grapes. One cluster! When these men returned with their report, ten of these guys began to plant fear and doubt about the challenge that was ahead of them to claim this land. The other two spoke faith and were ready to go, standing firm on God's promises and His faithfulness from all the past demonstrations of authority. But the people were swayed by the ten. Because of their doubt and disbelief, an entire generation of men died in the

wilderness without experiencing the reward and treasure God had laid out for them. They said of themselves that they looked like grasshoppers, and so they must look even more so the same to their enemies. They not only drew untrue conclusions about themselves but went ahead and drew untrue conclusions about their enemies as well. How often do we do this? These Israelites even began talks about retreating back to Egypt, the very land that they left to escape their slavery. All due to doubt and fear.

A man told me a story once of his days as a State Trooper. "During one of my shifts we had a riot in one of our State Penitentiaries. Only a handful of troopers were on duty at the time. In fact, twelve troopers showed up at the front door. The pursuit to get there would rival a NASCAR race, especially as we began to get all lined out on a two lane highway.

When we arrived, we assembled in the parking lot with riot gear and shotguns. We were outnumbered and the appearance of so many whose arms looked like they could open cans, would cause any normal person to doubt. But, we didn't, because we knew we had authority and power - deadly force power - if needed. That stand off lasted only a few minutes and when the twelve of us troopers began to advance, the prisoners decided they would go back to their cells and live another day." Don't let doubt or fear creep into your mind that God will fail you, because He won't. He has promised you victory and an inheritance. Just begin to advance, realizing who He is, and what He said you are to Him. Move out and watch God show up on your behalf. Don't worry about the size of your adversities, Know the power of the fight and strength God has put in you.

- Mark Smith