

## DON'T TRUST YOUR FEELINGS

Wise man-Foolish man Part VII

Numbers 13, 14

The Lord brought the children of Israel safely out of Egypt. He promised to take them to a new land of milk and honey, that is a land that would produce bounteous crops and provide them a good home. After traveling through the wilderness the people finally arrived at the border of that Promised Land. The Lord instructed Moses to choose twelve men, one from each of the twelve tribes, and send them to spy out the land. Each of the men was to be a ruler from his tribe.

So Moses did as God had instructed him and sent the men into the land of Canaan. The men were to go to different areas of the land and bring back a report as to what the land was like. They were to tell Moses what the inhabitants of the land were like as well.

The men went in and searched the land. Near one town they cut down a bunch of grapes that was so heavy it took two men to carry it between them on a pole. The men searched the land for forty days, and then they returned to Moses with their report.

This is the report that the spies brought to Moses: They said, "We went into the land where you sent us, and it truly does flow with milk and honey. Look at this fruit that we have brought back. But even so, the people that live there are very strong and their cities are walled. There are giants living in the land."

But Caleb, who was one of the spies, tried to calm down the people who became very upset at this report. He said, "Let us go up at once and take the land, for we are well able to take it."

But the other spies replied, "We will not go!" They brought a bad report against the land, saying, "This land will destroy our people. The giants are great and we felt like grasshoppers next to them."

Immediately all the people cried out. They grumbled against Moses and Aaron, their leaders. They complained, saying, "We wish that God had let us die in Egypt, or in the wilderness! Why has God brought us to this land so that we can be killed in battle? Our wives and our children will be defenseless. We would be better off to return to Egypt!"

Now these were very wicked things to say! For in Egypt the people had been slaves, and their lives had been very hard. God had rescued them from slavery and provided all their needs. He protected them from the great armies of Pharaoh. But in spite of all this, they complained against the Lord. How wicked of them to forget all God's goodness towards them and grumble and rebel!

The people decided to pick a leader who would take them back to Egypt.

Moses and Aaron, and Joshua and Caleb begged the people not to rebel against the Lord, but they would not listen. In the end they even tried to stone Moses and the three men who stood with him, but they were stopped when the glory of the Lord appeared.

Because of this rebellion against God, the children of Israel were forced to wander around that same wilderness for forty long years.

The rebellion of the children of Israel was the result of trusting in feelings rather than in God. Instead of trusting God and his promise the people were controlled by their fears. The Bible tells us that the person who trusts his feelings is a fool, because our emotions can keep us from thinking clearly and so cause us to make wrong choices.

The wise person will put his trust in the Lord and what He says. This is what Joshua, Caleb, Moses and Aaron did. The wise person knows that God knows the end from the beginning. The wise person remembers God's faithfulness in the past, and trusts that God, who is unchanging, will continue to keep his promises. Such a person can choose to do what is right, no matter how difficult that choice may seem to be at the time.

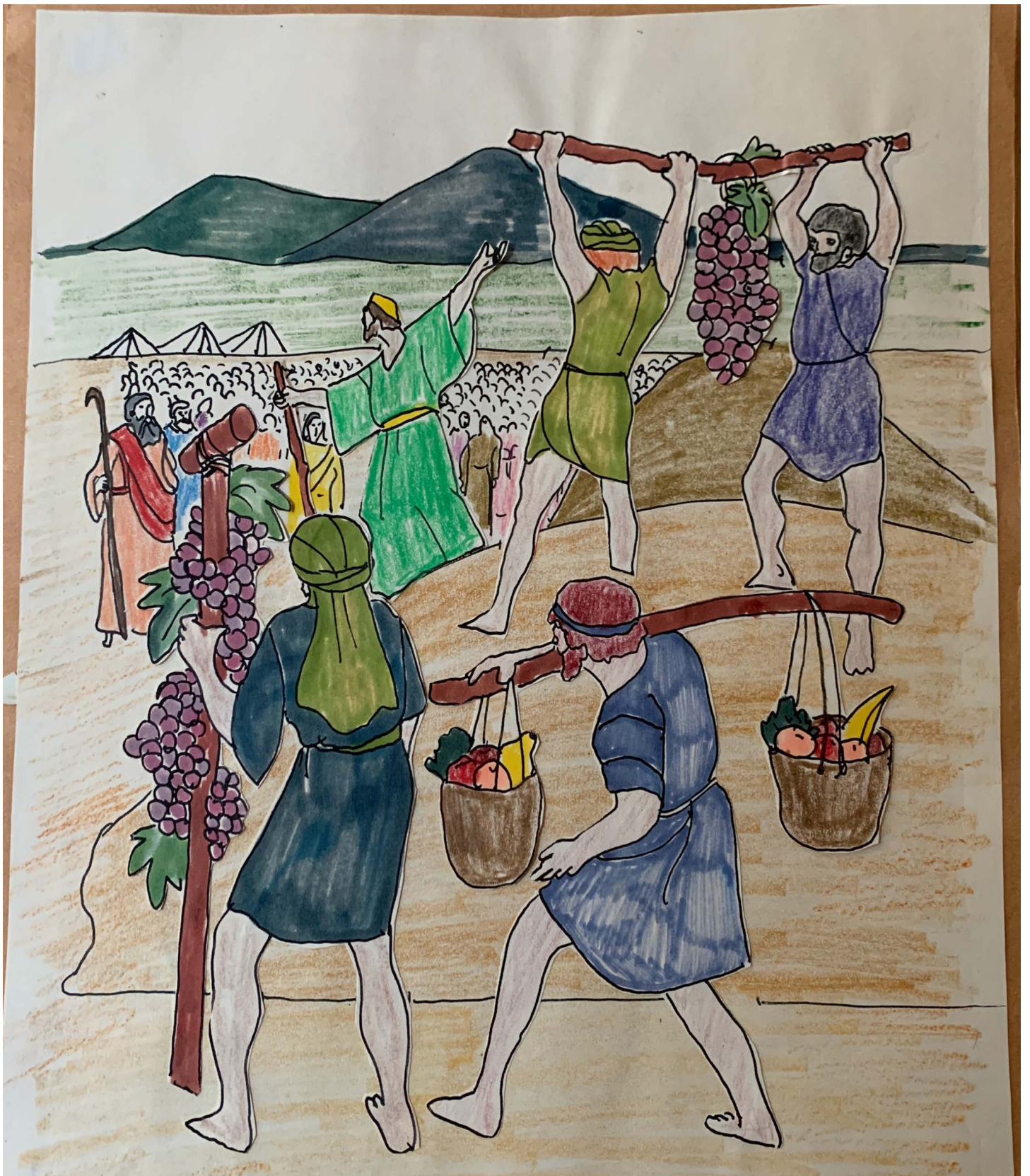
The fool, on the other hand, will look at the things and situations around him. He will look at the difficulties or dangers and turn away from doing what God says. In the end, he will find that his feelings and fears have led him in the wrong direction, but then it will be too late, just as with the spies and the children of Israel. All those who disobeyed God in this matter died in the wilderness, and they never were able to enter into that wonderful land that God had promised. That is a very high price to pay for following your feelings instead of the truth!

**LEARN:** He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. Proverbs 28:26

1. Color the scenery picture.
2. Color the spies and cut them out.
3. Paste them where they fit on the scene.







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Proverbs 28:26