
CALEB'S GIFT IDEAS FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

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PART ONE: FORGIVENESS

WITHOUT FORGIVENESS THERE CAN BE NO:

- Future.
- Deliverance (salvation).
- Personal vindication.
- Relationship.

SOME INTERESTING POINTS ABOUT FORGIVENESS:

The pattern for seeking forgiveness (and granting it)—

...“And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” ~2 Chronicles 7:14

...“Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.” ~Colossians 3:13

Godly Judgment—

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” ~1 John 1:9

Forgiveness Empowers Better than Unforgiveness—

“But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.” ~Psalms 130:4

The Double Danger of Unforgiveness—

“Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.” ~Psalms 19:12

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.” ~Luke 6:37

“And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” ~Luke 6:41

PART TWO: HOPE FOR ANOTHER

Though Caleb lost out on several years of enjoying his portion of the Promise Land, he chose to forgive and stay in relationship with those who were responsible for his personal pain and loss. Revenge and unforgiveness could never give him a future or hope for a restored inheritance.

During the years of desert wanderings, Caleb maintained a posture of hope for himself and for others:

Caleb had a vision for the inheritance God intended for him to possess—

*“For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me, and come and pray to Me and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.”
~Jeremiah 29:11-14*

Caleb held on to the promises of that inheritance for many years—

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” ~Romans 15:4

Caleb rested in God for the fulfillment of those promises about his future—

“Who is the man who fears the Lord? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. His soul will abide in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land.” ~Psalms 25:12-13

Caleb's vision of the Promise Land was not one of isolation. Where Caleb saw himself living in the future was a place where others could live too—

“In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for if I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” ~ John 14:2-3

“Abraham took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.” ~Genesis 12:5

Caleb suffered obediently in the desert of others' disobedience. When we suffer (with the right heart) because of others, this becomes part of redemption—

“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls” ~1 Peter 2:21-25

PART THREE: A JOB IN THE STABLES

The more you study your Bible, the more you come to realize what a premium God puts on obscurity, invisibility and behind the scenes activities. In contrast to how we see things, God highly regards servanthood, the setting aside of our own agenda and putting others first.

Caleb thrived in obscurity, and found fulfillment in making sure that others were taken care of first. He battled on behalf of their inheritance, not against it. He longed to see others settled, and he trusted God to take care of what concerned him. He did not fall into the trap of believing that if others got theirs, he wouldn't get his.

Obscurity and selflessness always lead to glory and true selfhood, honor, and personal fulfillment.

Selfishness...(Philippians 2:3-8)—

- Wants to accomplish more for ourselves and get our own way (v.3).
- Dwells on what we have already done (v.3).
- Thinks that we are more important than others (v.3).
- Aims primarily at serving our own interests (v.4).
- Believes we have the same qualifications as those of others and expects to be promoted (v.6).
- Defends us against losing what we've achieved or what we deserve (v.7).
- Wants to appear to be more than we are, rather than less than what we really are (v.8).
- Obeys only as long as personally profitable (v.8).

Obscurity: God's Choice (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)—

- Foolish to shame the wise (vs. 26-27).
- Weak things to confound the strong (v. 27).
- Base and despised things to nullify what the world esteems (v. 28).
- Does not incapacitate things that are (v. 28-30).
- Jesus becomes for us what we cannot accomplish for ourselves (v. 30-31).