

## One Set of Facts, Two Perspectives

*Num 14:8-9*

*8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.*

*9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*

1. Introduction

1. It is possible to look at a set of facts and get a wrong interpretation of them based on your perspective.

2. One problem there is with the observation of facts is the perspective from which we view the facts.

3. Things are not always as they appear.

**[three images]**

4. What looks like insurmountable giants eating people may merely be a perspective that only sees the scene from a mind-altering view. [**giant eating a man**]
  5. There is one set of facts, but generally there are at least two perspectives.
- II. Taking a city of giants
    1. This message has more than one target in the focus.
    2. First, we have been talking about taking our city for a while.
    3. Our 2021 theme is **2021 Field Focus**, where we are looking to find ways to increase our focus on the harvest field, and find the buried treasures.
    4. It does seem as though the Lord is helping us to refine our focus, little by little.
    5. Different ones are catching a glimpse of that focus as we begin to develop plans for the year.

6. We shut down so many plans in 2020 and as things open up, so must our vision.
7. But there are giants in the land that we want to take.
8. Our CIP program is a member of the Clay County Substance Abuse Council (CCSAC), and their comprehensive plan for our county lists some giants in the land that they want to take down.
9. During 2020, their report shows statistics from the sheriff that there were 251 drug related arrests in Clay County involving alcohol, meth, marijuana, and possession of a controlled substance.
10. And of course, child removals from homes due to the parents being involved in these cases is also a troubling fact that CCSAC wants to reduce.
11. Addictions and the neglect and abuse of children that result from addictions are two giants they list.

12. The problem on top of that problem that CCSAC states, is that those with these problems have limited options of help.

13. When you read the report, it reads like something from the book of Numbers:

*Num 13:31-33*

*31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

*32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*

*33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

14. The land of Brazil is eating up the inhabitants thereof. We have searched the

land and what else is there but an evil report?

15. And further, the city has much armor and strong fortifications defending them:  
*Num 13:28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.*
  16. When we went into the city, we saw children of the giants there.
  17. If the giants are the abuses going on in our city, perhaps the children of those abuses are those who have been bound by the addictions.
  18. How can we take a city that has such people with such problems? Facts are facts, right?
- III. Giants coming at our family
1. Our city is one target this message will focus on. But what about closer to home than our city as a whole? What about giants closer to you and your family like someone

- who is dealing with desperation that has brought them to self-harm, cutting themselves, burning themselves, pulling out hair, self-bruising, piercing themselves.
2. How about the giant of emotional stress that is causing anxiety that causes loss of enjoyment of life, and sometimes causing them to withdraw from others, and withdraw from life itself.
  3. Maybe a giant of debt—literally giant debt that has pressed you so far down that you feel like a total slave to it. Dreams of rising above it have long since turned into nightmares.
  4. Another giant of declining health that increasingly make you feel like you are in a hopeless, endless fall, like a bad dream from which you cannot awake.
  5. And when facing these giants, all you can come up with is an admission like we read in Numbers, we be not able to go up against this. They are stronger than me.

6. These problems are eating me up. I am so small in the face of these giants.
7. That is what you see.
8. And after all, facts are facts, right?

#### IV. A higher focus

1. One problem there is with the observation of facts is the perspective from which we view the facts.
2. Things are not always as they appear.
3. What looks like insurmountable giants eating people may merely be a perspective that only sees the scene from a mind-altering view.
4. But when we see it from a higher perspective, things come into clearer focus.
5. Instead of the land eating its inhabitants, maybe they are bread for us.
6. Instead of them having strong defense, walled cities and armor, maybe their defense is department from them:  
*Num 14:9 Only rebel not ye against the*

*LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*

7. And as we read this morning, maybe the strong man holding his victims securely in place will meet a stronger one than he who can overcome him and take his armor away and set the captives free!

*Luke 11:21-22*

*21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:*

*22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*

8. We must take a serious look at the evidence that is causing us to lose hope and our “facts are facts”, or, “it is what it is,” statements that keep us living in despair.
9. You may be under a heavy load of grief, but you may not realize that standing beside

you is Someone who is really carrying your sorrows and griefs:

*Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

10. I am living as though I am still carrying these things. Let me give them to Jesus who can carry them far better.
11. You may be overcome with cares that are keeping you tied up in anxious thoughts, but you may not realize that standing beside you is Someone who asked you to cast off your cares onto Him since He cares for you and can carry your cares:  
*1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*
12. Maybe there is a giant standing right before you who is cursing you, mocking your faith, belittling your size, defying your God, and threatening to kill you and feed you to the vultures and hyenas.

13. But maybe you need to see it from the higher perspective—higher than the giant you are facing:

*1 Sam 17:45-47*

*45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.*

*46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

*47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for **the battle is the LORD's**, and he will give you into our hands.*

14. You see, what you don't realize is that standing beside you is Someone who is a giant killer who is saying, "Hey, don't fret. The battle is mine!"

15. If we put Goliath's 9-foot height beside David's 5-foot height, Goliath has some advantage.

v. Conclusion

1. But the height and size of the giants we are facing is not really of concern if the battle is the Lords. For who can compare to the Lord almighty?

*Ps 113:5 Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high,*

2. And this psalm of David says:

*Ps 35:10 All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?*