

**Fear makes people do stupid things. Horror movies.**

**Scripture: Numbers 13:26-14:10, 14:20-35**

**I. Fear: An Old Testament Example**

**A. Course of Fear**

- 1. 10 unbelieving leaders spread fear among the entire population**
- 2. 2 believing leaders were outnumbered**
- 3. Majority isn't always right**

**B. Cause of Fear**

- 1. The People's answer**
  - a) Formidable inhabitants**
  - b) Fortified cities**
  - c) Fearsome terrain**
- 2. The Lord's answer**
  - a) Distrust in the Lord (14:11)**
  - b) Despised the Lord (14:11, 23)**
  - c) Dissent against the Lord (14:35)**
  - d) Departed the Lord (14:43 - turned from following)**

**C. Consequences of Fear**

- 1. Ripple effect**
  - a) Cowardly leaders infected the congregation**
  - b) Congregational cost**
    - (1) 40 yrs of wandering in the wilderness**
      - (a) 40 yrs of missing out on the Promised Land**
    - (2) Unnecessary wars and suffering**
      - (a) Canaanites, Midianites, Bashan, Amorites**
      - (b) Uprisings, sickness, Baal worship**
  - c) Censured of the nation**
    - (1) Death in the wilderness**
  - d) Children of the nation**
    - (1) Had to fight battles that their fathers should have fought**
  - e) Chosen leaders of the nation**
    - (1) Unable to experience their full reward**
      - (a) Miriam, Aaron, and Moses all died without entering the Promised Land**

**When we look at this OT example of fear and its repercussions we should make certain that we learn two lessons.**

**First, God sees our fear as more than simple self-preservation. He views our fear as a serious sin. To him, our fear is a sign of distrust and dissent. It is the behavior of those who despise him and seek to depart from following him.**

**Second, our fear does not just affect us. It spreads to those around us. As Christians we are to be leaders in our homes, our workplaces, our communities, our country, and our churches. When we fear we negatively impact how others receive and relate to God. We harm ourselves and others.**

**So let us dedicate ourselves to trusting in our all-sufficient God all the time. The odds are never against us when we are obedient to and trusting in the Lord. May we heed Joshua's cry: " Only don't rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land, for we will devour them. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us. Don't be afraid of them!"**