09 -- DIVISION -- DISCOURAGEMENTS IN SEEKING HOLINESS -- (APR. 23-25)

23. The land, through which we have gone to search it is a land that eateth up all the inhabitants thereof; and all the people we saw in it are men of great stature; and there we saw the giants; . . . and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. -- Numbers 13:32-33.

What are giants and walled cities to God? Go on in! People who have once been in the Canaan of Perfect Love and who come back with discouraging accounts of it, do more harm than anybody else. But, if you will read narrowly, you will not be so much scared wisen you find that these spies contradict themselves; for how did the inhabitants of the Holy Land become such giants if the land ate them up?

24. Ye have not passed this way heretofore. -- Joshua 3:4.

A difficult and dangerous and untrodden path is always dreaded most. But thousands have passed this way. Where they have gone, you can go. And the ark and the priests have gone on before (v. 3). And God will do wonders among you (v.5).

25. Who . . . bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words . . . in secret at the perfect. -- Psalm 64:3-4.

Some can face cannons and open enemies; but bitter words shot at them in secret injure their souls and wound their hearts and dishearten them by their very intangibility. Some dread scorn and the sneer worse than the sword and the arrow. Worse than all, these " bitter words" are secretly shot at the excellencies of character and reputation -- at perfection of doctrines, experience, testimony and behavior. But God knows it all. He is a shield. Fear not!

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