

And they are told not merely to bring information back, but to bring back actual samples. "Be ye of good courage and bring of the fruit of the land." And so they were given a very sizeable task, and I think we have every reason to believe that they performed the task most excellently. That they were men who were skillful in performing the task allotted to them. Their failure was not a failure of skill; it was a failure of nerve. And all the fine skill that they probably showed was of no ~~avail~~ avail, because of the failure of nerve that came later. And how often a man who has great capabilities and who works hard and develops himself and trains himself and accomplishes much for a time in the Lord's work, ~~fails~~ fails through a failure of nerve, or thro a spiritual weakness. May God enable us to develop ourselves physically and mentally and socially but may he enable us to learn ^{to live} /spiritually as He would have us and to keep our eyes on Him and not like these spies to do a great and good work and have it fizzle ~~out~~ out because of some failure that we could have prevented.

Let us pray: Our Father we pray that you will indeed help us to do the very best we can with the tasks you've set before us. O our God it was easy a few centuries ago when there was very little of this world's pleasure available, simply to devote oneself to the Lord's service and not think of earthly things. It seemed easy at least. Many glorified poverty, glorified giving up ~~things~~ the worlds goods ~~and~~ and the world's things for the sake of God. But today when all around ~~us~~ us there are so many lovely things of this world and we want them for ourselves and for our families, O our God how easy it is for our eyes to be turned upon the things of this world ~~and~~ instead of the things of God. But O our God there is so much that is only for a brief time, a few years and then it is worthless. But O our Father what we do for Christ will last for eternity. Help us we pray to spy out the land, to study the situations ~~and~~ but help ~~us~~ help us to determine the Lord's will in them. and to follow ~~you~~ as you lead, we ask in Jesus Name. Amen.