

Checking Out What You Want

June 28+29, 2008

Christ wants you to live a fruit filled life! He wants you to get His very best. John 10:10b - *I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

There are seven fruits that are ripe for the picking!

- 1) **Eternal life through the complete forgiveness of your sins**
- 2) **Ever deepening, life giving relationship with Christ**
- 3) **Christ like character and wholeness**
- 4) **Mutually satisfying, Christ honoring relationship**
- 5) **Meaningful life purpose and ministry**
- 6) **Abundant grace and power for all of life's challenges**
- 7) **Overflowing financial provision**

How to Get God's best

- 1) **Faith:** Joshua 1:3, Hebrews 11:6
- 2) **Courageous, Careful Reaching:** Joshua 1:6-7
- 3) **Confidence and Commitment Gained through Checking Things Out**

People love to check out what they want before they get it. Some go to stores, check the ads in the paper or go online. We do this for the things we want, for relationships, churches and even God. **Why do we check things out?**

- 1) To make sure we get what we really want
- 2) To make sure we get it at the best price or the best fit
- 3) To make sure we didn't miss getting the best

The bottom line: Checking things out helps us to commit to getting what we want and realizing what we need to do to get it. It gives us confidence in our decision. God knows that we love to check things out, and before sending His people to get his best He had them send out a team to "check it out", to spy out the land.

Joshua 2:1-4, 8-14, 22-24 - ...We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below...

They came back totally confident that God was doing exactly what He said He would do and that they could indeed possess the land He had promised. Their checking things out inspired commitment.

Are you checking out what you really want, getting inspired to go get it or have you checked out? Do you believe God wants you to have His best or have you just settled for less?

Checking Out to Get God's Best:

- 1) **Refuse to be content with anything less than His best**

Matthew 5:6, Psalm 81:10-14

Six Stages of Possessing

Comfort, Discontent, Check Things Out, Challenge, Discomfort of Reaching, Satisfaction of Securing

- 2) **Pray ferently for what you don't have but know God wants you to get.** Luke 11:5-13, Luke 12:32 - 32

- 3) **Find believers who have what you want and ask them to show you how they got it.** 1 Corinthians 4:16, Philippians 3:17

- 4) **Let your checking out intensify your commitment to getting God's best whatever the cost. Persist in your pursuit until you get the first fruits of what you long for and then keep going for more.** Philippians 3:12-14

Don't check out – check out what God wants you to have and commit to getting His best.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What do you like to "check out?" How do you do it? Use newspaper ads? Go online? Go shopping? How do you finally decide to commit to getting something?
- 2) Read Joshua chapter 2 again and review how the spies report caused confidence and commitment in going for God's best. The key line that Rahab said was "For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below." What can we learn about believing in God's promises from this?
- 3) Review the six stages of Possessing- Have you been through these? Where are you at now? Now review 4 things you need to do to get God's best. Which of the four are you doing? Which ones do you need to do? Take time to pray for one another.