



Monday Matters

December 29, 2014

Grasshoppers and Bow Ties

Moziah, (Mo), Bridges from his earliest days remembers he always wanted to be a sharp dresser. When he was four years old he would put on a suit and tie and go for a bike ride or head to the playground in his Memphis, Tennessee, neighborhood. Going out to play in jeans and a tee shirt just wasn't in Mo's character. He wanted to be stylish in his appearance.

At age 9 he asked his grandmother, a seamstress, to teach him to sew. Mo wanted to make his own clothes. His grandmother taught him the basics and soon he was creating his very own bow ties. He would hunt around the house for fabric or head over to the fabric store to find the perfect material for his creations. He began to make bow ties that he would put up for sale. A website, **Mo's Bows**, was designed to promote Mo's bow ties and eventually by age 11 his bow ties were being sold in 12 stores across the south.



Mo has sold tens of thousands of dollars of bow ties and there seems to be nothing to stand in the way of his success. As CEO of Mo's Bows, he has set a goal to establish his own line of clothing by age 20. As he says, he is the NBT (Next Best Thing).

The Bible, in Numbers 13, tells of Moses sending out a group of men to investigate the land of Canaan. This land had been promised by God to the people of Israel but currently was occupied by the Canaanites. Moses was to conquer this land but needed a plan to do so. When these twelve men came back they all agreed that the land "flowed with milk and honey" and showed

some of the fruit they had found in the land. Of the twelve men sent out to spy on the land of Canaan, ten were afraid to recommend taking over the land. They said that "all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature." The men also said, "We were in our own sight as grasshoppers."

Two of the investigators, spies, said to Moses and the Israelites that the people of Canaan, though big, "shall be our food." Joshua and Caleb said the Canaanites had no defense to protect them if the Israelites would move forward and take the land.

The people revolted against Moses and the good report and said they wanted to go back to Egypt where they had been slaves.

As we are at the beginning of a new year, we tend to set goals for ourselves and try to move in a new direction. It doesn't take long before we scrap those goals, those ideas. We might even become afraid of what other people will say and how they will react to our plan and we fail to move forward. We see the grasshoppers in our way just like the Israelites.

I would encourage all of us in this new year to not look at the giants, not to feel like grasshoppers but to strive to succeed in our goals and not let anything stop us in 2015 and beyond. You are never too young - just ask Mo. You are never too old. Start the year off by moving forward and never look back.

RN



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