

In The Wilderness

Numbers 27:1-23

- Israel is now preparing to enter and inherit the Promise land, they've numbered the tribes so that they know the order in which each tribe would receive its inheritance, as the larger populated tribes would receive the largest portions of land while the least populated tribes would get the smaller portions of land. This would ensure that no one tribe would seem to have favor above the other tribes, as its population determined its inheritance nothing more

V1-23

- **V1-4** now another problem pops up as problems tend to do, some daughters, five to be exact, from the tribe of Manasseh come to the Tabernacle of meeting where the Moses, Eleazer and the leaders of the congregation gathered, and they share with them their problem concerning the inheritance agreement.
- Their dad a man named Zelophehad of the tribe of Manasseh had died in the wilderness with the first generation, his children being young enough to be counted with the second generation are in line to receive his families share of the inheritance, except for one problem, they were girls, and normally all inheritances passed from father to sons, not daughters. They were given dowry's at their wedding day that was meant to help them survive, just in case their husbands left them, became incapable to provide, or died.
- **V5-6** this is a new situation, and Moses does what all of us should do when we're faced with something new, he takes it to the Lord. How we handle circumstances or situations as believers is not like the world, who depend on their feelings, thoughts, and experiences to determine what to do, we on the other hand look to the Word of God, The Spirit of God, to guide and direct us into making the decision that is pleasing to the Lord, now if how I feel, what I'm thinking, and my past experiences line up with what God has said then I follow it.
- **V7-11 Lev 25:23-** God said "**The Land belonged to Him**" therefore no one could buy, sell, or divide it anyway they saw fit, it had to be given out in the manner that God said to do, wouldn't it be great if we lived in a society that only did things in the manner God saw fit. The Lord speaks to Moses telling him to allow the daughters to inherit establishing inheritance rights for all living children both men and women, boys and girls, also God tells Moses that if there no living children to inherit then you shall give the inheritance to their father's brother.
- **V12-14** in Num 20 Moses was told that he would die before entering into the promise land, there are still some months before he would climb to the top of the mountain get a look at the promise land that he had led the children of Israel to the doorstep, but unable to enter in and die there. Its here that the Lord reminds him of what He had said to him so that Moses can prepare his heart when the time comes, notice how Moses responds to this news.

- **V15-17** he doesn't try and talk God out of it, doesn't rehearse to God all that he had to endure, doesn't run down his resume and remind God of how much trouble the children of Israel are, and that he didn't ask the Lord for this task, or that if you add up who was the most faithful between him and them, it would be him easy, so why can't he enter in like them. Instead after hearing his coming fate his only concern seems to be for the welfare of the people, the congregation and not for himself, as he asks, please set someone over them
- But not just anyone, someone who is a shepherd, for he doesn't want the children of Israel to wander like sheep with no Shepherd. Moses knows that without a shepherd sheep are in constant danger, when faced with slim provisions of food and water they don't make good sound choices, but go out into places they shouldn't be, and become easy prey.
- The job of a shepherd is simple: To **feed, protect, guide** and **direct**, as he leads them out and brings them in > **Mic 5:2-4** Prophesied this about Jesus Christ, and **Jn 10:11**- Jesus proclaimed that that this is exactly Who He is "**The Good Shepherd**". In an additional sense this is also fulfilled by the New Testament office of Pastor-Teacher in **Eph 4:11**, as the Greek Word for Pastor is the word "**shepherd**" **Acts 20:28**, **1Pet 5:2**, and even in **1Pet 5:4**- Peter calls Jesus The Chief Shepherd and pastors the under-shepherds.
- **V18-20** in showing the same compassion as Jesus did in **Mk 6:34**- as He saw the people as sheep without a shepherd, The Lord graciously allows Moses to know that He had already chosen Joshua as his successor. It shouldn't come as a surprise to us as we've seen Joshua work closely with Moses, serving and ministering to the people being trained up by Moses.
- God tells Moses you've seen Joshua for years, he has the same spirit as you for the people, so in front of the priests and the people, you shall lay hands on him and pass your authority to him. Interestingly Moses received his call privately in the desert, while Joshua is commissioned publicly by Moses and Eleazar, but whether its privately or publicly it must be affirmed spiritually, as those around should be able to attest this is the call of God in their life.
- **V21-23** we see that as Eleazar inquires of the Lord and He affirms in front of all the people that Joshua is the man to lead the children of Israel in the promise land. Later in **Deut 31:14-23** God is going to bring Moses and Joshua together and tell Joshua that once Moses dies the children of Israel is going to be disobedient and go after false gods, breaking His Commandments and eventually be given over to the other nations, but in the midst of all this God tells Joshua "**to be of good courage**".
- **Jer 45:5**- "seek great things for yourself, seek them not" God reminds Joshua that he has called him to be faithful to bring Israel into the promise land and conquer the nations within it. What they do afterward is not on him, he's only responsible for what God called him to do and not how the people responded. So if his life's work was for Israel to enter the promise land and seek and serve the Lord faithfully then he will be a failure, but if it is to do what he is ordained and commissioned to do right here before Moses and the priests he'll succeed.