

## RISE

### Joshua Series, Episode 5—Doing Our Part (Joshua 17-20)

Sunday, October 8. Joshua 17:1-18:10; Ephesians 2:10 (MSG)

(Joshua 17:1-6) After allotting land to the people of Ephraim (Joshua 16), Joshua turns to the people of Manasseh. As he is assigning and distributing portions, the daughters of Zelophehad come forward to assert a claim for their deceased father's portion of the land (inheritance) which Moses had promised to them years earlier. Joshua acknowledges and accepts the petition, and gives a portion of land to Zelophehad's daughters.

(Joshua 17:7-18) Although the territory allotted to Joseph's descendants was large, they were unhappy with it. They complain to Joshua about only receiving one lot when they are such a large and blessed population. Joshua acknowledges their size and strength, and then directs them to clear out the forest and hill country to give them adequate space. Balking at this directive, they point out that the Caananites living in the land have chariots of iron. Joshua restates the directive to clear the land, and reassures them about their great numbers and might and how they will possess the land to its farthest borders.

(Joshua 18:1-28) After allotting land to the tribes of Judah and Manasseh, there remained seven tribes who hadn't yet received their apportionment. "The land lay subdued before them" (vs. 1), so battling for the land was no longer an issue, but the people weren't taking any action to move forward and take possession of it. Drawing on his leadership skills, Joshua confronts the people asking them, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the god of your fathers, has given you" (vs. 2)? He then creates and administers a plan which leads to a final distributing of the land.

(Ephesians 2:10, MSG) "He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing."

**--Do you think of yourself as a worker for and with God?**

**--Why is it important to "Pray like it depends on God, but work like it depends on you"? How do we benefit when we do this? What impact does working like it depends on us have on our thinking, attitude and/or mood?**

**--What does God sharing the workload with us convey and communicate about how God views and feels about us as His children?**

**-- When or in what circumstances are you most likely to lose sight of God's desire for you to "do your part"?**

**--How does remembering what God has done for you in the past help keep you focused and on track spiritually?**

**-- What do these chapters reveal about the importance of having strong Christian leaders/mentors/friends (community) who can support and motivate us to keep moving forward when we're struggling?**

**--What role does God's Word play in keeping us grounded, motivated and enthused about working for and with God?**

Monday, October 9. Joshua 17:1-6

After allotting land to the people of Ephraim (Joshua 16), Joshua turns to the people of Manasseh. As he is assigning and distributing portions, the daughters of Zelophehad, united as a group, come forward to remind Joshua of the promise God had made to them through Moses years earlier. In so doing, they respectfully assert a claim for their deceased father's portion of the land (inheritance). Joshua acknowledges and accepts the petition, and gives a portion of land to Zelophehad's daughters.

**How have you experienced God's love, concern, care and provision (as a man or a woman)? When you don't receive something you've been promised, how do you tend to respond? Why is keeping calm and being respectful so important when we find ourselves in a situation of conflict?**

Tuesday, October 10. Joshua 17:7-18; Ephesians 2:10

Although the territory allotted to Joseph's descendants was large, they were unhappy with it. They complain to Joshua about only receiving one lot when they are such a large and blessed population. Joshua acknowledges their size and strength, and then directs them to clear out the forest and hill country to give them adequate space. Balking at this

directive, they point out that the Caananites living in the land have chariots of iron. Joshua restates the directive to clear the land, and reassures them about their great numbers and might and how they will possess the land to its farthest borders.

(Ephesians 2:10, MSG) "He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing."

**Do you think of yourself as a worker for and with God? Why is it important to "Pray like it depends on God, but work like it depends on you"? How do we benefit when we do this? What does God sharing the workload with us convey and communicate about how God views and feels about us as His children?**

Wednesday, October 11. Joshua 18:1-28

After allotting land to the tribes of Judah and Manasseh, there remained seven tribes who hadn't yet received their apportionment. "The land lay subdued before them" (vs. 1), so battling for the land was no longer an issue, but the people weren't taking any action to move forward and take possession of it. Drawing on his leadership skills, Joshua confronts the people asking them, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the god of your fathers, has given you" (vs. 2)? He then creates and administers a plan which leads to a final distributing of the land.

**When or in what circumstances are you most likely to lose sight of God's desire for you to "do your part"? How does remembering what God has done for you in the past help keep you focused and on track spiritually? What does this passage reveal about the importance of having strong Christian leaders/mentors/friends who can support and motivate us to keep moving forward when we're struggling?**

Thursday, October 12. Joshua 19:1-51

After surveying the land, the people return to Joshua with their reports. He then casts lots to finish apportioning territories. Land was allotted to the remaining seven tribes in this order: Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan. In the final verses of chapter 19, the people of Israel give Joshua his own inheritance, the city of his choosing, which was Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim.

**God blesses people in different ways. What's one example of God blessing you as you've followed after and served Him? How does this encourage you to live a life that pleases God?**

Friday, October 13. Joshua 20:1-9

After the allotting of the land is completed, God instructs Joshua to put in place cities of refuge. These were designated cities (six in all) where those who unintentionally, unknowingly or accidentally took the life of another human being could go as a place of refuge from relatives seeking revenge. In order to be admitted into a city of refuge, the person who had killed another was required to present their case to the elders at the city gate. At a later date, they were then tried by the city's local assembly for judgment. As long as the person stayed within the confines of the city, they would be shielded from any avenging parties.

**When someone wrongs you or a family member, what's your first instinctual or gut response? What does the creation of cities of refuge reveal about the difference between man's heart and God's? What's one example of how has God protected you when something you've said or done unintentionally caused harm to someone or something? What does this convey about God's love for you?**

Saturday, October 14.

**Review Joshua 17-20. Read Joshua 21-24 in preparation for Sunday's message.**