

INHERITANCE

ILLUSTRATION: The parable of the talents and our stewardship responsibility to *trade* in the Kingdom and earn a *profit*!

1 Peter 1:3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an **inheritance** that is **imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you**, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, **if necessary**, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the **tested genuineness of your faith**—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in **praise** and **glory** and **honour** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward**. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Salvation and inheritance

- We need to separate salvation and inheritance.
- We can lose our inheritance, but not our salvation.
- From the security of salvation, let's lay up for ourselves an inheritance.

Analogy of inheritance from the OT

We learn about inheritance from the consistent theme of inheritance in the OT. The OT is the shadow of the reality found in the NT.

- Abraham got the major part of his inheritance beyond the grave. But he did set up the next generations for an earthly inheritance as well. Therefore, it's not just our reward in heaven. Inheritance is what God wants to give us within salvation, and we obtain it through patient and faithful persistence. Inheritance and rest go together. The major part of inheritance is beyond the grave.
- The other picture of inheritance comes from Joshua taking the Promised Land. It was promised, but he had to fight for it.

Context - Bring his kingdom

- ***Plot of land***

There is an area of life that God is mapping out for us. We will be given territory - a spiritual equivalent - a calling. We are meant to find it, inherit it and conquer it for God. Your gifts and calling show themselves, and sometimes even before you are saved. It's what God wants you to do for Him. God created us to be what we are to be.

We have been made exactly/precisely/lovingly for this spiritual purpose, no matter what vocation we may have.

- ***Must fight and disposes the enemy occupying the land***

It will involve conflict, delay, opposition and you may even feel weak. Most biblical figures were not enthusiastic about the call. Go after your call. Take step one and you'll have power in Him to overcome. Then, we'll have the insight and strength to see and take the next step.

- ***Obedience to the law is paramount to continued inheritance***

We have to be obedient to the Spirit (replacing the law). Day of Pentecost was the anniversary of the giving of the law! In obeying the Spirit, you'll obey the law anyway, and live above that. Live in the Spirit. The Spirit is higher than and greater than the law. We inherit the promises by obeying the Spirit.

What is our inheritance personally?

- ***Your character***

Your internal inheritance. The fruit of the Spirit. It begins with love. First, the internal inheritance, then from that, the external inheritance. Sermon on the Mount helps us with our internal inheritance.

- ***Calling***

God will give you a calling - some way of serving Him. It will have to do with the Gospel, serving the church and pleasing God, even if you are secularly employed.

- ***God will enable you to fulfil that calling***

When you find that calling, He will give you what you need to fulfil it - gifts, personality, ability, anointing, everything. And He wants us to trust Him for it - walking by faith. God will train you for it. He will meet your needs. He will be with you. The bigger or more influential the inheritance, the more difficult and long it will take.

- ***God will enlarge you***

Faithful with little, He will enlarge you. It will always go from glory to glory. What we think is our success, is a training and beginning for something else. Go after your inheritance by faith and patience. Stay in the will of God, it's the happiest place to be.

- ***Then, there is a reward laid up for us beyond the grave***

1 Corinthians 15:40-41

40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

Joshua: Lessons on fighting for your inheritance

• 5:13-6:27 Jericho

Trust and obedience in God.

God's ways are not our ways.

Joshua 5:13 - 6:5 5:13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" 14 And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" 15 And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

6:1 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. 2 And the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valour. 3 You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. 4 Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.

• 7:1-8:35 Ai

The debilitating work of the sin of disobedience. Obedience is paramount. Sin must be dealt with, because it will halt the whole process of going forward.

Joshua 7:1 1 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel.

Joshua 7:10-12 10 The Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. 12 Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.

• 9:1-27 The Gibeonites

They never enquired of God, and were caught in deception.

This caused them compromising God's command and not taking their full inheritance.

Joshua 9:3-4 3 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, 4 they on their part acted with cunning...

Joshua 9:14-15 14 So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the Lord. 15 And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

- **10:16-28 Joshua cutting off the heads of enemy kings, with the tribal leaders feet on their heads.**

Leaders help their people move into the fullness of God's promised inheritance.

Joshua 10:24-26 24 And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. 25 And Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." 26 And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees. And they hung on the trees until evening.

- **14:6-15 Caleb. At 85 years old, Give me the hill country!**

There's no retirement in God's Kingdom. We are never too old. There's no cut off date!

Joshua 14:11-12 11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. 12 So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.

ILLUSTRATION: Gogo Nyakamela

- **24:15 Joshua, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**

Fathers need to set the spiritual tone!

Joshua reminds Israel of God's faithfulness.

Joshua 23:14 And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.

Joshua leads by example.

Joshua 24:14-15 14 Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

- **Israel never totally dispossessed all the enemies God had commanded them to dispossess, and later on they became the cause of Israel's downfall!**

EXAMPLE: Gibeonites, Jebusites.

- **Influenced his generation only**

Joshua 24:31 Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

Judges 2:10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

There was no continuity, no passing on the baton - sad, very sad.