

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of My Inheritance

Lesson #18 Gad & Friends: We Found Our Inheritance!

Deut. 6:23- "He brought us out (justify us) that He might bring us in (sanctify us) to give us the land [abundant life with ALL the resources we have in Him] which He swore to give our fathers.

1. God did not save Israel out of Egypt to live a life of defeat in the desert. He brought them out of Egypt [picture of salvation] in order to bring them into Canaan [picture of His rest]

2. God did not save us so we would stumble around in our wilderness of defeat.

He saved ALL of us to take us into our Canaan (rest) - the fullness of Christ; Abundant Life so the Holy Spirit + Word Of God can Transform Us into the image of Jesus Christ.

God gave the land to Israel, but they had to fight enemies and possess it. Claim It!

Lovin' My Cows! [stuff; material things]

The second generation was east of the Jordan River; Ready To Enter the land.

1. They had already defeated Sihon, king of Heshbon and Og, king of Bashan.

2. They have gained possession of the territories of these two Amorite kings on the east side of the Jordan River, stretching from the Arnon River in the south to Mount Hermon in the north, beyond the Sea of Galilee.

3. They controlled hundreds of cities of the Amorites, including such fertile lands as Bashan and Gilead. "The cows of Bashan" are healthy and well-fed because of the fertile land.

Numbers 32:1-7 and Deut. 3:19

1. Reuben and Gad possessed large numbers of livestock.

2. They SAW The LAND of Jazer and Gilead. It was suitable for cattle. We Have Cattle!

a. This land WAS NOT part of the Canaan land God promised them.

b. They have their OWN PLAN for their lives; something other than God's plan.

Prov. 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof are the ways of death.

c. They based their level of commitment on what they SAW; a decision based on their cattle.

d. They were given over to the cares of this world: cattle.

Keypoint #1 It was of little interest whether or not they were close to the Presence of God.

Keypoint #2 God's presence was moving forward across the Jordan with the Ark of the Covenant. They would be separated from Jerusalem, from Zion, from the Tabernacle of the Congregation, the Altar of Burnt Offering, from the priesthood, and from the manifestation of the Glory of God Himself.

Keypoint #3 They did not consider they would not be present to see the fulfillment of God's promises to the nation of Israel.

Keypoint #4 They were not interested in seeing if the other tribes would be successful in obtaining their own inheritance.

Keypoint #5 Their hearts with were their cattle!

Questions: Who or what has my heart?

What is keeping me from DESIRING to seek Him with all my heart, soul and mind?

Do Not Take Us Over The Jordan

1. So sons of Gad & Reuben approached Moses and the other leaders with this request:

"If we have found grace in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Please do not make us cross the Jordan, but let us possess these fertile lands on the east side of Jordan" (Numbers 32:5).

Wenham: "That any Israelite tribe should consider settling outside the land promised to Abraham showed a disturbing indifference to the divine word, the word on which Israel's existence entirely depended. They are COVETING land God never intended for them - all for the love of their livestock."

a. They were rejecting God's plan and not living by faith; living by sight.

b. They were more concerned with what fed their flesh, than with what fed their spirit.

Any day not surrendered to God will likely be lived in the flesh.

Gal. 5:16 Let the Holy Spirit guide your life.

Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Note: When we covet or greatly desire something, it Blinds Us and we become easily Deceived.

1. This is why they could think they were correct in their presumption, even after forty years in the wilderness with all the Israelites longing for the Promised Land.

2. They were giving up this generous inheritance and cheating themselves from the promises of God for some cattle.

Deut. 12:10 "But when you cross over the Jordan and DWELL IN THE LAND which the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety..."

Note: To understand this "blindness:" Examine the actual Hebrew word used for cattle.

1. Cattle = miqneh = livestock

2. The root word for miqneh is ganah = redeemed, possessor, of God,

3. They literally made their cattle their redeemer and deliverer;

essentially believing in material things for their joy, happiness and virtually their salvation.

4. Recall: They had made it an idol when the Israelites first came out of Egypt.

Ex. 32:4 And he received the gold from their hand, and fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Question: Do I base my decisions upon my "cattle" [stuff, desires] instead of God's promises?

c. They were placing their own interests and that of their cattle over the interests of all the other tribes.

d. Their request was denounced vigorously by Moses who perceived immediately the error of their hearts. Moses called them "a brood of sinners."

Application: Picture of: Please do not take me deeper: no maturity; don't ask any more of me

a. Into the fullness of God's promises; His will/plan, purpose for me; to transform me

Consider: The Jordan River always represents DEATH in the Bible.

Hebrew for Jordan = yardane = descender; to go down, be prostrate, taken down, to sink.

Crossing the Jordan is a type or picture of humbling yourself and dying unto self and its desires. It is a journey of faith that takes us from dependence on the things we see and touch to reach a special place - where through submission to God we receive a supernatural joy and peace which the world cannot take away.

In order to live in the Promised Land [Abundant Life] and enter into God's rest, We All Must Cross over the Jordan River.

Then we can rise to walk in newness of life, in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

1. These tribes were not interested in taking this spiritual journey = Die to their fleshly desires; obey God's will and command: enter the land and possess your Promised Land

Consider: How would you feel if the people whom you loved most were preoccupied with the gifts you had given them and did not care whether they were close to you or separated from you?—they did not care for you, only for what you could do for them?

"Multitudes of Christians are satisfied with their own spiritual development. They are ready to settle down and make a little nest in the world, enjoying what they think they have attained in Christ to this point. They do not seem to have the fierce gladness of the victorious saint, the joy of seeking the Lord and pressing on to the fullness of the possession of God in Christ. They do not love God. They do not have a heart to press into marriage to Jesus.

They may love the things of God or the things of the church or what God has done for them. They may desire to go to Heaven to "live in a mansion," and they are afraid of Hell.

But they do not love God Himself. They do not love Christ."

"The infinitely greater tragedy is they do not love the Son of God. They take little pleasure in waiting hopefully and patiently for the precious voice of the Bridegroom. The idea of cleaving in total union to the Lord Jesus, forsaking all others for Him alone, is foreign to them."

The Promise Land Had Definite Boundaries Set By God - I Want Some Freedom!

1. The east side of Jordan did not have definite borders.

a. They wanted to be free to do their own thing / outside of the will of God.

b. Reuben, Manasseh & Gad are a type and picture of borderline Christians who:

(a) Were brought out, But Not Willing To Be Brought In

Col. 1:13 We have been brought out of the kingdom of darkness & into the Kingdom of God's Son.

1. Will I allow The Holy Spirit to bring me into the fullness of God's will?

2. They did not want any Godly restraints, boundaries & disciplines placed upon their life.

Can you imagine a believer tell their Pastor, teacher:

a. I do not want to go any deeper in the things of God.

b. I do not want to enter into the fullness of God's will, promises, blessings & purpose.

c. I am not interested in dying unto self & committing to that degree. Seems too radical!

d. I want to stay on this side of Jordan. Be a Carnal Christian!

Self-Centeredness Is Revealed

Num. 32:6 Moses said to the sons of Gad & Reuben:

Shall Your Brethren Go To War, while you sit here? Why do you DISCOURAGE the hearts of the Israelites from going over into the land which the Lord has given them?

1. Num 32:6 "Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here?"

a. Attitude: I am satisfied with my possession; do not need to do warfare anymore.....for anyone

Question: Why do I need to be involved with spiritual warfare and serving in ministry to help someone else grow?

Time For An Attitude Adjustment! Their attitude causes negative things to manifest:

Num 32:7 Now why will you Discourage The Heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord has given them?

Recall: The ten spies discouraged the Israelites forty years earlier, when they were about to enter into the Promised Land (Canaan). Result: Unbelief and disobedience; refused to enter

a. They never considered their brethren helped them fight to get them where they were.

b. They forgot who was standing by their side in the midst of the battles they fought.

c. Moses said this type of attitude will discourage your brethren:

Discourage: refuse, forbid, neutralize, break, disallow: Make Of None Effect.

a. It is discouraging to see someone walk into their promise land if they are not willing to take the time to: (1) teach you how they did it

(2) or fight with you in the trenches of spiritual warfare until you have victory.

Note: Moses' fear had a foundation. If you want to press on with the things of the Lord and go on to maturity, there is a sure way to discourage your desire - start hanging around believers who are content with where they are, and who don't want to press on with the Lord.

Complacency is contagious.

We are to be willing to help: teach, train, pray for our brethren.

Moses calls self-centeredness: "Me first attitude": SIN

"It requires every bit of dedication we can summon to keep pressing forward in the pursuit of the prize of the high calling of God. This desire, zeal and perseverance is supplied to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. When a believer chooses to be content with a partial entrance into his inheritance, he influences those around him to also become content with a partial entrance.

When we keep on giving ourselves wholly to the things of Jesus Christ, many people around us are encouraged and strengthened. If they see us grow careless, their determination is weakened. A border-line Christian can destroy much good. No fully dedicated saint marches alone. A great train of people are inspired to march along with him."

Moses' Response: Num. 32:23 *But if ye will not do so [take part in the warfare with your brothers], behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.*

"One of the greatest sins we can commit is the sin of neglecting to press into our inheritance, into the rest of God. If we neglect our salvation, if we are busy with marrying, buying and selling, our desires and plans when Jesus Christ needs us for His business, then we surely will suffer loss at the Judgment Seat Of Christ."

What Made These Tribes Self-Centered & Insensitive To Their Brethren?

Why was there NO desire in them to enter the Promise Land?

A. Reuben: Gen. 49:3-4 "Reuben, you are my firstborn; My Might and The Beginning Of My Strength, Preeminent in Dignity And Preeminent in Power. Unstable as water, You Shall Not Excel [have preeminence], because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch."

1. Reuben was constantly moved by what he presently saw in the natural world.

a. When Reuben saw the edges of the promise land.....that was enough for him.

2. Type of the believer: saved, but remains immature and no desire to grow.

a. He was so moved by what he saw, it never entered his mind....that the deeper we go into the promise land.....the more God will have in store for us.

3. Jacob's words: Gen 49:3 "Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it - He went up to my couch.

a. UNSTABLE AS WATER: Water has no form of its own and takes on the form of whatever it is poured into. Reuben lacked back bone; easily yield to pressure & temptation.

b. Noted for his IMMORALITY - Gen 35:22 Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it.

Consider: Christians "like Reuben" struggle with immorality in their life and live on the edge.

Immorality [or some sin] plagues them and dominates their lives. They will walk in victory for a short season, but due to their being unstable, they fall into the sin again.

They are not being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. [Rom. 8:29] NO victory!

Unstable: Lust of the flesh is not limited to sexual temptations.

1. The unstableness of the "Reubenite spirit:" a people given over to the lust of the flesh: "so that You Are Not Free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do."

2. Due to being unstable & self-centered: you experience a Constant struggle between your flesh & your spirit.

3. Being unstable/lust/self centered: hinders you from pressing into the fullness of what God has promised for your life.

4. You have a tendency to settle for what your flesh desires. Compromise with what the world offers. You never enter into the fullness of your abundant life.

Consider: We are delivered from this "spirit" by Jesus Christ through whom we may overcome the world and its allurements. As we yield and submit to Him, spiritual maturity, growth and transformation are formed in us.

Gal 5:16-17 But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.

B. Manasseh: Causing to forget / forgetfulness

Oldest Son of Joseph who was adopted by Jacob [Gen. 48:5].

1. Gen 41:51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh:

a. "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

b. This is a healthy form of Forgetfulness and avoids: offense, bitterness, unforgiveness

2. The Manasseh spirit represents a people who Forget The Promises Of God.

a. Manasseh forgot it was the other side of Jordan / Canaan land that God had promised them.

Ps 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Don't just settle for what the world offers. God has more.

3. The Manasseh spirit represents believers who are Biblically illiterate.

a. Manasseh did not go to the writings of Moses (which became part of the Old Testament scriptures) that defined the boundaries of Canaan Land. Manasseh failed to go to The Word

b. Type of Believers with no Biblical foundation of Christian Doctrine in their lives.

Without KNOWING the Word you will never pursue the fullness of God's will for your life.

1. Believer's who exhibit the Manasseh spirit are very shallow in their Bible knowledge.

a. Results in believers settling on the wrong side of Jordan / short of God's best.

Heb 4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

2. Instead of forgetting God's promises we are to: Col 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

a. Renew your mind with the Word of God to prove God's will for your life.

b. Don't settle on the east side - short of the fullness of what God has in store for your life

C. Gad: Son #7 - Troop; Invader - son Of Zilpah [Leah's handmaid]

Birth Statement: Gen. 30:11 Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad.

Jacob's Prophecy: Gen 49:19 Gad—a raiding troop shall raid him, but he shall raid at their heels and assault them [victoriously].

Moses' Blessing: Deut. 33:20-21 And of Gad he said: Blessed is He Who enlarges Gad!

Gad lurks like a lioness, and tears the arm, yes, the crown of the head. He selected the best land for himself, for there was the leader's portion reserved; yet he came with the chiefs of the nation, and the righteous will of the Lord he performed, and His ordinances with Israel.

1. Gad's settling on the east side of the Jordan caused their location to never be secured. They were constantly under attack by the Moabites.

2. Believers who are afflicted with the "Gad spirit" never enter into the fullness of God's will.

a. Their unwillingness to mature and grow causes them to experience constant harassment from the powers of Satan, the deceiver and roaring lion, and their flesh.

3. The tribe of Gad could not stand against the attack of their enemies because of giving

themselves over to idol worship.

a. Gad worshipped a Semitic god of fortune / or prosperity.

Recall: When they made their decision to stay on the east side of Jordan instead of pressing into the fullness of the promise land:

a. They had based their decision upon their cattle, and how green the land was.

They focused on the prosperity of this world ahead of God's will for their life.

4. Gilead, one of the cities of Gad, was lost to Syria in battle.

The Prophet Jeremiah cries out in regards to the tribe of Gad:

Jer. 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead, Is there no Physician there?

Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?

5. Their self-centeredness caused them to be caught up in bickering & failing to walk in unity with the other tribes of Israel.

a. Examples in Scripture: When Gad & Ephraim had great conflict

b. This same characteristic is in believers who exhibit the "Gad spirit."

(1) Unable to walk in unity of The Holy Spirit

Eph 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

(2) Unable to tap into the blessing of unity

Ps 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion;

For there the Lord commanded the blessing — Life forevermore.

6. Jesus' words about people who cannot walk in unity:

Luke 11:17 "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls."

7. Just as Gad could not stand against its enemies, believers who do not learn to flow in the spirit of Unity find themselves defenseless against the attacks of the power of darkness.

8. But if we are willing to walk in unity we magnify, multiply our abilities to withstand & overcome the attacks of the powers of darkness:

Lev 26:7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.

Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

"Shall your brothers go to war, and shall ye sit here? Every member of the Body of Christ is a part of every other member. It is not appropriate or scriptural that some Christian people are giving their lives for the Gospel while others are following the ordinary pursuits of mankind; that some believers in Christ are in prison for their faith while others are building bigger houses, buying more expensive automobiles, and worrying about their bank account and the color of the bedroom walls."

"The Body Of Christ Is One Body. When one member suffers we all suffer. Not one member of the Body is allowed to settle back at ease in the world until *every* other member has obtained his inheritance in God. How can we occupy ourselves with material comforts when our brothers and sisters in Christ are being tortured and imprisoned for the Gospel? Shall we not be held accountable for such treachery?"

Gal. 4:19 My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely *and* permanently formed (molded) within you,

Heb. 6:1 Therefore let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings *and* doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness *and* perfection that belong to spiritual maturity.

Heb. 4:11 Let us therefore be zealous *and* exert ourselves *and* strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves], that no one may fall *or* perish by the same kind of unbelief *and* disobedience [into which those in the wilderness fell].

God's will to transform me into the image of Jesus Christ must be the priority in my life. Otherwise I will find myself drifting into deception and blindness.

Consider: When Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, with nothing more than a promise from God, he did not leave a shantytown. The excavations of Ur have proved it to have been one of the most affluent cities of that day. The houses were large and most of the people were well-fed. This is the reward God promised to Abraham:

Gen. 15:1 "After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.'"

Is Jesus Christ my exceedingly great reward?

Am I pressing toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus?