

“Lessons from the Inheritance of Ruben and Gad”

Joshua 22:1-27

Open: Background (Num. 32:1-25)

- The **request** – The tribes of Ruben and Gad saw that the land on this side of Jordan (outside the promised land) was good for cattle and requested that they have this land be their inheritance.
 - **Num. 32:5** *“Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.”*
- The **rebuke** – The Rubenites and the Gadites were not reprimanded because they desired the land this side of Jordan; they were rebuked because they were allowing the rest of their family to go to battle while they stayed back and went on with their life.
 - **Num. 32:6-7; 14-15** *“And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? [7] And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?... [14] And, behold, ye are risen up in your fathers’ stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the LORD toward Israel. [15] For if ye turn away from after him, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people.”*
 - Recognize that it was the lack of completing the will of God that was being judged the same as those who were punished for not crossing over Jordan 40 years earlier to take Canaan. It was a lack of faith that was being reprimanded.
- The **requirement** – The Rubenites and Gadites recognized their error and amended their request. Allowing the woman, children, and wives in a newly constructed city while everyone else would fight with Israel till victory was attained.
 - **Num. 32:16-25** *“And they came near unto him, and said, We will build sheepfolds here for our cattle, and cities for our little ones: [17] But we ourselves will go ready armed before the children of Israel, until we have brought them unto their place: and our little ones shall dwell in the fenced cities because of the inhabitants of the land. [18] We will not return unto our houses, until the children of Israel have inherited every man his inheritance. [19] For we will not inherit with them on yonder side Jordan, or forward; because our inheritance is fallen to us on this side Jordan eastward. [20] And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the LORD to war, [21] And will go all of you armed over Jordan before the LORD, until he hath driven out his enemies from before him, [22] And the land be subdued before the LORD: then afterward ye shall return, and be guiltless before the LORD, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD. [23] But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out. [24] Build you cities for your little ones, and folds for your sheep; and do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth. [25] And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spake unto Moses, saying, Thy servants will do as my lord commandeth.”*

Tran: Story (Joshua 22:1-27)

- The **Reward** for obedience – Rubenites, Gadites, and ½ tribe of Manasseh are given permission to go back to the land they were promised. **vs. 1-4**
- The **Requirement** for blessing – Continue in the way that they have been taught. **vs. 5-6**
- The **Return** to their inheritance – Here we're told that ½ the tribe of Manasseh would also break away from the other tribes of Israel to claim their inheritance. **vs. 7-10**
- The **Ridicule** of others – The rest of Israel causes a needless division because of speculation and hearsay. **vs. 11-20**
 - They heard. **vs. 11-12**
 - They assumed the worst. **vs. 16-20**
- The **Response** to the critics. **vs. 22-27**
 - The Rubenites, Gadites, and ½ tribe of Manasseh did not react in violence, but with wisdom. **vs. 22-34**
 - They let the truth battle for them. **vs 22-23**
 - They wanted to build the altar so all generations after would be reminded of God and His way. **vs. 25 -27**

I. Realize that there will come a time when your path in life takes you far from the constants you've known.

- **Joshua 22:4-5** *“And now the LORD your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side Jordan. [5] But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”*
- A. Don't waste your training. Allow the “commonality” and “familiarity” of doing right form habits of right.
- i. Those who are patient during the training years and form the right habits will experience success in every area of their life. **James 1:8, 12** *“[8] A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. [12] Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*
 - ii. Those who waste their training have an appearance of stability; but below the surface they are uncured. **II Tim. 3:5** *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”*
- B. The reward will be more enjoyable because of your obedience, but do not fail to realize that with great blessings comes great responsibilities.
- **ILL: Do not be the servant who knows about the blessings that doing right brings; but never experience them because, he did not prepare himself to obey. Lk. 12:47-48** *“And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. [48] But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”*
- C. Responsibility to the truth does not change as one is given the freedom to make one's own choices.
- i. My lack of belief in the outcome of the choices I have chosen to make does not change the destination of the road I have chosen to travel. **Rom. 3:3-4** *“For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? [4] God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.”*
 - ii. Right and wrong is not based on age, it is based on truth. **II Tim. 3:15** *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;”*

II. Set up reminders of the ways that God has said will bring success in life.

- **Joshua 22:10; 26-27** “And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that are in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to. [26] Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice: [27] But that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do the service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the LORD.”
- A. Set up landmarks that will keep before you a reminder of your responsibility of obedience to the truth.
Prov. 22:28 “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.”
- B. Set up memorials, though the purpose may seem simple, because they will keep you from being destroyed.
Song of Solomon 2:15 “Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.”
- C. Invest in teaching future generations their responsibility to learn and obey what made previous generations successful. **Deu. 6:6-8** “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: [7] And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. [8] And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.”
- **II Tim. 2:2** “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

III. Learn to have proper judgement(s) in life.

- **Joshua 22:11-12** “And the children of Israel **heard** say, Behold, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh have built an altar over against the land of Canaan, in the borders of Jordan, at the passage of the children of Israel. [12] And when the children of Israel **heard** of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered themselves together at Shiloh, to go up to **war** against them.”
- A. Before you crucify someone for their actions, make sure you get all of the facts. **I Cor. 4:5** “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”
- B. Their focus shifted from conquering new lands and seeing God work through them, to being involved in a needless argument, and almost war. **I Cor. 1:10** “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
- C. Do not allow personalities or preference dictate your judgement; live by principles. **Prov. 20:18** “Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.”
- **Prov. 19:21** “There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.”

Close:

- Don’t waste your training because there will come a time when life takes you from the constants you’ve known.
- Set up reminders of the ways that God has said will bring success in life.
Learn to have proper judgements in life.

II Tim. 2:4

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”