

Joshua 22

v1-4

"Ye have not left your brethren these many days unto this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God." "therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession"

- Rueben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh had been faithful to fulfil the commandment of The Lord.
- This is a beautiful example of commitment and fellowship. These men had fought for years for a land that they were not going to inherit. They had given their time, their swords and their lives to strengthen and support God's people in inheriting their promise.
- It is important to remember that they were not committed solely to helping their brothers. Their effort was not completely selfless. It was greatly in their interest to keep the conditions set for their own blessing and protection. Their land was not considered Israel/inherited until this time had come.
- There is a lesson to be seen here... There may be a blessing carved out for us, there may be a place for us to dwell, maybe we have found our possession early... But the blessing could not be enjoyed and grown until all the people of God had been brought into their victory and peace. The true enjoyment of the promise was only experienced as a whole congregation. When all the people rested.

v5

"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 cling to and unite with Him and to serve Him with all your heart and soul [your very life]."

- Joshua 1:7 Only you be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.
- The repeating theme through this book and the overarching theme of The Word of God. To love God, not just to fear, but to love Him. To walk in the way that The Lord has instructed and to follow in His footsteps. Obedience commands a blessing.
- Luke 10:27 And he replied, You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.
- From beginning to end The Lord is searching for those who will receive His love and worshipfully love Him in return.

v8

"divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren."

- The spoils of war were not for selfish gain. They were not encouraged to become pirates or Spartans where only the strongest were praised.
- The spoils were to be shared amongst all the people. They were to increase as a people/tribe. The men who stayed to protect and help the women and children were also to be rewarded.
- God's kingdom is a kingdom of service and preferring one another. It is a kingdom where the first shall be last and the last shall be first. All cared and catered for from the least to the greatest.

v12

"And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered themselves together... against them."

- GILL: to consult about it, and to prepare for it, which they were obliged to do by the law of God, as in the case of a city, so of a tribe drawn aside to idolatry; and which they imagined was the case of these tribes, or at least what they had done had a tendency to apostasy from the true worship of God, which they were zealous to defend at the hazard of their lives, and though it should issue in an extirpation of one or more of their tribes;
- Deuteronomy 13:14-18 Then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently. And behold, if it is true and certain that such an abominable thing has been done among you, [15] You shall surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly and all who are in it and its beasts with the edge of the sword. [16] And you shall collect all its spoil into the midst of its open square and shall burn the city with fire with every bit of its spoil [as a whole burnt offering] to the Lord your God. It shall be a heap [of ruins] forever; it shall not be built again. [17] And nothing of the accursed thing shall cling to your hand, so that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of His anger, and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as He swore to your fathers, [18] If you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep all His commandments which I command you this day, to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord your God.

v13

"Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest"

- GILL: a man zealous for the Lord of hosts, and his glory, of which there is an instance in Numbers 25:7; and so a fit person to be employed in this affair, who would be faithful, bold, and zealous, as well as capable of giving advice and counsel to both parties, if needful.
- There would be no sympathising with sin. There would be no tolerance for it. Phineas testimony of zeal and passion for The Lord is an inspiration. He is truly set apart for the glory of The Lord.
- Numbers 25:6-8 And behold, one of the Israelites came and brought to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and of all the congregation of Israel while they were weeping at the door of the Tent of Meeting [over the divine judgment and the punishment]. [7] And when Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand [8] And went after the man of Israel into the inner room and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman through her body. Then the [smiting] plague was stayed from the Israelites.
- May I have such a heart for the testimony and glory of The Lord. May it be that I am so set apart for His honour. May it be that I am willing to stand up and take action when all others are simply watching and wailing. We are not in a carnal/physical dispensation any more but may I fight in prayer and fellowship with The Lord for His testimony, His people and His glory!

v16-20

"The result will be, since you rebel today against the Lord, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. Did not Achan son of Zerah commit a trespass in the matter of taking accursed things [devoted to destruction] and wrath fall on all the congregation of Israel? And he did not perish alone in his perversity and iniquity."

- There was a principal set and understood that sin in the individual was sin in the camp! Achan did not die alone. The consequences of sin was severe! To lose the presence/blessing of The Lord cost so many lives! The Lord would be angry with the whole congregation! Sin must be dealt with and swiftly for the sake of all the congregation. This truly demonstrates the selfish, hateful, destructive nature of sin. Demonstrated in the fact that people would know the awful consequences yet still commit them.

v31

"This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because ye have not committed this trespass against the LORD:"

- Phinehas and the elders could perceive The Lord's blessing and presence because there was no sin in the camp. The congregation was blessed because the individuals were holy. Oh this is a weighty thought. Oh that we would be so mindful of the damage caused by sin. If we could truly see the effects of our pride, selfishness, lack of patience, compassion and service... Oh Lord may we be sensitive to sin and give us Godly sorrow that we may often repent and keep our hearts right before you and your people.