

## Easter Sunday Sermon – “He Bought Your Inheritance” Joshua Part 14

### 1. He is Risen!

- a. As Christians, we celebrate life today. Resurrection life.
  - b. Today I would like to provide some perspective...so that perhaps we can get out of the “bad me” attitude and begin to celebrate who we are in Christ! Did you know God is happy you are in His presence today? Did you know God is enjoying you and your praises?
  - c. I would like to design a new piece of conversation jewelry...to look like an empty tomb. I wonder if anyone would recognize it? A big rock with a hole in it. Would buy it or wear it?
    - i. For the past 1600 years, the symbol for the Christian life has become the cross...(because of the Catholic church and its spawns). But for the early church it was about resurrection life. They didn’t look at the cross (the place of suffering and death) for answers, they looked to the risen Savior.
    - ii. To look solely to the cross would be to look to the means of our deliverance instead of at our Deliverer.
      1. We don’t want to look at the symbol of our deliverance. The early church didn’t, why do we?
      2. The first appearance of a cross in Christian art is on a Vatican sarcophagus from the mid-5th Century. Jesus' body was not shown as he is in later Catholic artwork. The first crucifixion scenes didn't even appear in Christian art until the 7th century.
    - iii. I am not saying that the cross isn’t a symbol we should reverence, because it is. As you heard on Good Friday, whenever we celebrate the Lord’s supper, the death of the Lord Jesus Christ is “proclaimed” until He comes back.
    - iv. But what we must hear today is that if the resurrection didn’t happen, then the sacrifice of Jesus was rejected by the Father. And if that were true, you and I would still be in our sins, hopeless for an eternal future.
      1. But we like to beat ourselves up and try to pay for something that Jesus already paid for. It makes us feel better if we suffer a bit. But you can’t pay for it. Jesus paid it all...and the proof is in the resurrection. The bill is stamped, “paid in full” and it includes more than just your forgiveness! Jesus isn’t on the cross. The tomb is empty. He is risen! You have been forgiven.
- 
2. This morning, I am going to reference our Joshua journey into the promised land, while at the same time bringing out the New Testament passages that show us their fulfillment in Christ.
    - a. As you might be aware, God commands the Israelites to “enter into their inheritance” in the book of Joshua after they have defeated all of the major enemies in the promised land.
    - b. Joshua 11:23 *“So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war.”*
      - i. What you might not be aware of is that the word “inheritance” is used 43 times in the book of Joshua...more often than any other book of the bible! And if the book of Joshua is a parallel to the Christian life, then this means that we should pay attention to what the New Testament says about inheritance!
    - c. You have an inheritance to claim as well. It is yours as a result of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!
  3. An inheritance...when do you get it? After someone dies!
    - a. What is it? **An inheritance is something that someone has paid for, worked for and that you get for simply being his or her heir.** You do nothing to get it other than being in their will.
    - b. So, here is the question...what did Israel do that led them into this inheritance? Whose was it before they got it from God? The answer is it was God’s! They got this solely because they were His people. They didn’t do anything to inherit it. It was a gift!

- i. They were called to POSSESS their inheritance. To claim it. To live in it. To live it out!

Let's look at the New Testament now:

4. Ephesians 1:17-21 *"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in (for) the saints, and his incomparably great power for (in) us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."*
  - a. Paul is praying that you and I might have our eyes of our heart opened so that we might know the HOPE to which we have been called in Christ, which is the RICHES of His "glorious" inheritance in (for) the saints, AND His incomparably great power for (in) us who believe. THAT power (that comes with the inheritance) is like the working of His mighty strength which He exerted in Christ when He did what? *Raised Him from the dead.*
  - b. There is so much cool stuff in this passage, I could preach a month on it and only scratch the surface of what God is saying here. We will camp out on the subject of inheritance for the next couple of weeks.
    - i. But the bottom line in this passage is **the startling fact that you and I have been given an inheritance and God wants us to know and experience what that is.**
    - ii. That inheritance is made possible because of the death and resurrection of Jesus – and the inheritance includes the power that raised Him from the dead and seated Him in heavenly places (and we are seated there with Him). Jesus purchased our inheritance – He paid for it so we could possess it.
    - iii. **Do you know what that inheritance is? Is it forgiveness? Is it getting to go to heaven when we die?**
5. What is that inheritance? What does it entail and include?
  - a. Notice that Paul prayed that we might have our eyes opened so that we could KNOW the riches of that inheritance. He was speaking to believers who KNEW they were saved and going to heaven...so if they already understood the inheritance, why would he be praying that they would have the eyes of their hearts enlightened to know the riches of His glorious inheritance?
    - i. I believe it is because what Jesus purchased for us at the cross and secured for us by His resurrection is so immense that it will take us all of eternity to comprehend and understand and appropriate it. Yet...Paul prayed that we might begin to understand it **now.**
      1. You & I need God given insights into that inheritance. Those insights or revelations don't give us something new. They only UNCOVER what is already ours in Christ.
      2. **You can't use what you don't know what you have.**
      3. If you have great riches, you must know what they are!
      4. An inheritance does you no good if you don't know you have it.
        - a. Is it just to go to heaven when you die?
        - b. Or do you think that all the good stuff mentioned in the Book is only good for the Millennium and Heaven and not for now?
    - ii. Imagine your father or mother or grandparent dies and leaves a will. You find that will and take it to the lawyer and ask him to read you the first line of it. And then you take off out of his office to go claim that first thing, never to return to hear the rest of the will and inheritance.
      1. That is what most Christians do. That is why Paul was writing this letter to believing Christians and saying *"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be*

*enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”*

2. Ephesians 1:11 says, *“in Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”*
  - a. Did you catch it? Past tense. We HAVE OBTAINED. It is ours! It isn't in a future tense that someday we will get to use it when we leave this sweet bye and bye.
  - b. I can't imagine my dad leaving me and my sister the 20 acres I now live on and saying... “you can't use it until you die.” How ludicrous! The entire reason he left the land to us was so that we would use it and live on it!
  
- b. Three major things are included in this inheritance– but you will need revelatory insight to get the details on your inheritance.
  - i. **Riches of the glory of His inheritance IN the saints. (The Holy Spirit).**
    1. You and I received the gift of the Holy Spirit, inside of us when we became children of God. The bible says it this way, *“the mystery is....Christ in you the hope of glory.”*
    2. What does that look like?
      - a. Well, we can certainly see that your spiritual GIFTS are a part of it.
      - b. You can hear God speak in your spirit. You can discern spiritual things.
      - c. You have God living inside of you. He isn't way out there somewhere. He dwells in your spirit and your spirit dwells in heaven, and heaven dwells in your spirit, because wherever God is there also is heaven.
  - ii. **Resurrection Power of God Himself. (The same power that raised Jesus from the dead)**
    1. Power seems amazing...but that power resides in you. That power, Dunamas, means that the “ability” of God lives inside of you. In fact, if you are a Christian, God lives inside of you...all of God, not just a piece. All of the ability of God dwells within you.
    2. Did you know you already have all you need inside of you to command a dead person to rise or a sick person to be healed?
    3. **Ah...am I making you uncomfortable now?**
      - a. Explain Jesus worked only as a man empowered by the Holy Spirit so we could too!
      - b. Greater things that these shall you also do.
    4. The only things you and I lack for power is intimacy with the Father, revelation and faith. It has been given to you...but we lack the unveiling of it to understand how to use it.
    5. You and I, all of humanity is POWERLESS without the life of God. Jesus would have been powerless without the life of God which came upon Him at His baptism when the Spirit rested upon Him. You can do NOTHING apart from God. You can look good, but be good? Nope!.
  - iii. **The Hope of His Calling.**
    1. **Hope is the confident expectation of good.**
    2. You might understand this better if we look at it from the negative. What does a person without hope look and act like? They have no future, no expectation of good, in fact, they are defeated, looking forward to something else caving in on them.

3. But to have hope...that means your faith is feeding your hope. God has told you that “**behold I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you a hope and a future.**” (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
- c. Jesus has given us the gospel (good news) of the Kingdom of God. The gospel is never referred to as the good news of “how to get to heaven.” It is the Kingdom of God, the reign of God In you.
- d. The riches that we thought were ours when we die are actually ours now to spend, spread, and give away so that others might experience the love of our God and the joy of His kingdom.
  - i. Do you need hope? Have you lost the confident expectation of something good going to happen? If so, there are folks in this place who want to pray for you. God wants you to have hope. Hope that will carry you.
  - ii. Are you sick, hurting or in need of healing? The kingdom of God comes in power and health. God desires for you to be freed from your infirmity. He paid for your healing on Calvary. The bible says, “By His stripes you are healed.” What do you need healing from?
  - iii. Do you want to know the God who loved you so much that He gave His only Son so that by believing in Him you can have everlasting life...that life, zoe, is life that is full, abundant and complete.
  - iv. We have altar counselors here...who have the training and anointing of God to pray over you and to minister life and hope to you. Won't you come forward during our ministry time and let God touch you? Let's pray.