



The Danger of “Entitlement Thinking!”

Joshua 17:14-17

The Texts Takes Place in the “Promised Land”

- Joshua divided the land of Canaan among the tribes of Israel just as God had commanded, Joshua 11:23
- The “Promised Land” was already occupied (not like a luxury resort for the children of God). Satan wants the territory in your promised land, “The Church” Ephesians 6:11-18
- Nine-and-one-half tribes received a portion of the land in which to settle (Reuben and Gad and ½ Manasseh had settled for a lesser inheritance on the east side of the Jordan River, Numbers 32:33)
- So, some Children of God will “Settle for Less”(what looks good, appeals to their senses, immediate gratification, no work needed, with no scriptural rationale, no prayers)
- Those Tribes PAID THE PRICE of SETTLING, 2 Kings 15:29

The Tribe of Joseph Had a Problem with “Entitlement Thinking,” Joshua 17:14

The people of Joseph said to Joshua, “Why have you given us only one allotment and one portion for inheritance? We are numerous people, and the Lord has blessed us abundantly.”

- Initially this sounds logical (more people need more space)
- But notice again the fallacy of their argument. Their reasoning is: “We are numerous people and the Lord has blessed us abundantly.”
- The idea is, “since we are so blessed, we deserve even more blessings.” “So Joshua, we are entitled to have more than everyone else!”

What Is Entitlement Thinking?

- Simply put it basically means, “my title equals my entitlement.” Joseph’s tribe’s “Entitlement” was that since they were bigger: “Bigger Deserves Bigger Blessings!”
- With Entitlement Thinking, one’s favor is demanded based on one’s status or position (“Pastor” chastised and berated his congregation over not buying him a Movado Watch)
- Prosperity Theology uses Matthew 13:12 falsely to bolster this concept: *“Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance”*
- This is a Kingdom principle of God how dispenses spiritual knowledge (Matt.13:11, Matt. 5:6), and has nothing to do with “worldly gain” as some have falsely suggested
- Other commonly seen “Entitlements” in our world include Age, Credentials, Race, Family Name, Time Served, Wealth
- Heiress, Leona Helmsley: *“Only little people pay taxes!”*

Notice Joshua's Answer to this "Entitled Tribe" of God, Joshua 17:15

"If you are so numerous," Joshua answered, "and if the hill country of Ephraim is too small for you, go up into the forest and clear land for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites." His answer sounds both honest and sarcastic!

- If you are so plentiful, use your strength and clear the land for yourselves. He is basically telling them that if you want it, and feel entitled to it, you need to work for it!
- So when an individual approaches you or me claiming "entitlement," or "I deserve this position," we should say, "you need to put in the work," "you need to serve," "you need to pay your dues for what you want first"
- Matthew 25:23, ***"You have been faithful over a few things ..."***

**Christian Leadership Requires That You Must Serve
in Order to Lead Rather Than Lead in Order to be
Served!**

**A Heart Problem is a Spiritual Disability that a
Spiritual Church Body Doesn't Need!**

**There is a diagnosis of "Spiritual Heart Failure!"
Luke 14:8-11**

*"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take
the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you
may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you
will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then
humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.*



But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

- The “entitlement mindset” appears conceited, uncaring, and only concerned with self-aggrandizement
- With “Entitlement Thinking,” people perform the service, but their motive is fallacious: Matthew 6:1,N.I.V.

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Verse 3, “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

Jesus: The Prime Example of “Shunning Entitlement and Serving First!” Phil.2:4-11

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man on the things of others.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth; And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

Joseph's Tribe Complained of the Difficulty of Work! Joshua 17:16

The people of Joseph replied, "The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who live in the plain have chariots fitted with iron, both in Beth Shean and its settlements and those in the valley of Jezreel."

- This argument was not new, for it was the same one used by their parents who had complained that Canaan was already inhabited land and they refused to go in. Numbers 13 and 14.
- It was God's people telling God not just what He can't do, but what they didn't want to do (work), and as a result he let them wander in the wilderness for 40 years.
- Also notice the concern only about themselves, "the me mentality." "What you're giving us/me is not enough." "We deserve more than this?"

But Joshua Cut Them No Slack!

“But Joshua said to the tribes of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—“You are numerous and very powerful. You will have not only one allotment but the forested hill country as well. Clear it, and its farthest limits will be yours; though the Canaanites have chariots fitted with iron and though they are strong, you can drive them out.”

- Notice that Joshua “stuck to his guns” with his instructions, but was also encouraging (you will clear the hill country and overcome)
- Joshua’s idea was, “if you want it, work for what you want!”
- There is a Biblical principle here: Pass your spiritual labor on to others who will continue a Godly legacy (Christian parents)
- Paul’s instructions to young Timothy, 2 Timothy 2:2

A Biblical Principle Against “Entitlement Mentality” 1 Timothy 5:4

“But if any widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family, and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.”

- “Entitlement Thinking” mindset wouldn’t like that scripture
- It would say, “*They lived their life, and I deserve to live my life with what I make and what I can keep!*”
- God would think that you wouldn’t have life if it wasn’t for them (parents, grandparents)! Distance does not eliminate this commandment from one’s descendants
- Each generation should put in the work of developing resources for its descendants, cognitively and spiritually
(If you are blessed to live long enough, you will need them)

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

