

Preparations For Godly Marriage

Part 6

“ 1 The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah. They came forward 2 and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, 3 “Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah’s followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons. 4 Why should our father’s name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father’s relatives.” 5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD, 6 and the LORD said to him, 7 “What Zelophehad’s daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father’s relatives and give their father’s inheritance to them. 8 “Say to the Israelites, ‘If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter. 9 If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers. 10 If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. 11 If his father had no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan, that he may possess it. This is to have the force of law for the Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses.” (Numbers 27:1-11)

The daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, their father died in the wilderness, and they were about to be denied to receive their father’s inheritance because all of them are girls and there was no boy among them. Therefore they raise up that particular issue in this form of question, *“4 Why should our father’s name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father’s relatives.”* At that time the inheritance would pass from father to the sons and not to the daughters because the name of the father would pass to the sons and not to his daughters. The name of the father and the family name and the tribe name will be passed to the sons who will carry that for the next generation. Therefore with all that the material inheritance of the father would pass to his sons.

That issue was raised up by the daughters of Zelophehad, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, while they still in the wilderness, because they knew that when they will enter the Promised Land they will not receive any inheritance.

With this statement, *Give us property among our father’s relative*, the daughters of Zelophehad, secure their rights in having inheritance like others of their father’s relatives as well as secured that the name of their father will not disappear from his clan.

Therefore, in response to their questions, *“5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD, 6 and the LORD said to him, 7 “What Zelophehad’s daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father’s relatives and give their father’s inheritance to them. 8 “Say to the Israelites, ‘If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter.”* God approved to them their request and made it a law that if a man die and has no sons then his daughters can take the inheritance.

God also answered the question in more detail that can solve any queries even in the future if a man has no daughters, *“9 If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers. 10 If he*

has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. 11 If his father had no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan, that he may possess it. This is to have the force of law for the Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses.”

That issue of the daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher and their concerns was well know issue, and it was in the mind of the people, that one day needed to be addressed and solved. It was discovered and mentioned in their census that was done as God recommended in the plains of Moab, *“³³ (Zelophehad son of Hopher had no sons; he had only daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah.) (Numbers 26:33)* That issue was complicated and not a simple one to be easily solved, therefore it was brought up and opened before the highest leadership in the church, *“They came forward 2 and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, 3 “Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah’s followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons.” (Numbers 27:1-3)* The issue was brought to Moses according to his instruction to the judges, *“26 They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.” (Exodus 18:26)*

Later on, the time had come that the half-tribe of Manasseh would receive their inheritance as you can read: *“³³ Then Moses gave to the Gadites, the Reubenites and the half-tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan—the whole land with its cities and the territory around them. ³⁹ The descendants of Makir son of Manasseh went to Gilead, captured it and drove out the Amorites who were there. ⁴⁰ So Moses gave Gilead to the Makirites, the descendants of Manasseh, and they settled there. ⁴¹ Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, captured their settlements and called them Havvoth Jair. ⁴² And Nobah captured Kenath and its surrounding settlements and called it Nobah after himself.” (Numbers 32:33-42)* Therefore when Moses gave to The descendants of Makir son of Manasseh their allotment beyond the Jordan the issue of the The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph, again raised up because they were in that half-tribe. The Tribe of Manasseh they were objecting to give the daughters of Zelophehad their inheritance and they put a valid reason for that before Moses and the rest of the church leaders and as you can read here:

“⁴ The family heads of the clan of Gilead son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, who were from the clans of the descendants of Joseph, came and spoke before Moses and the leaders, the heads of the Israelite families. ² They said, “When the LORD commanded my lord to give the land as an inheritance to the Israelites by lot, he ordered you to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters. ³ Now suppose they marry men from other Israelite tribes; then their inheritance will be taken from our ancestral inheritance and added to that of the tribe they marry into. And so part of the inheritance allotted to us will be taken away. ⁴ When the Year of Jubilee for the Israelites comes, their inheritance will be added to that of the tribe into which they marry, and their property will be taken from the tribal inheritance of our ancestors.” (Numbers 36:1-4) They put a valid reason why they have reservation toward what God said in giving inheritance to the daughters of their brother Zelophehad, that his daughters if they will marry men from other tribes, then their tribe inheritance will be transfer to the other tribe, and the property of Zelophehad daughters will be taken from the

tribal inheritance of their ancestors. That was a valid reason to object and it was linked with their decision to whom they will get marry.

Now the Israelites and among them the Zelophehad daughters they knew that they cannot marry to other nations and people but only with their fellow Israelites, as you can read hear, ***“15 Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. 16 And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.”*** (Exodus 34:15-16) In addition to that, the issue was raised up that the Zelophehad daughters should not have the freedom to marry from other tribes so the tribal inheritance shall not be transferred to other tribes. God responded to that objection and agreed with the suggestion that the daughters of Zelophehad should marry only from the tribe of Manasseh as you can read here:

“⁵ Then at the LORD’s command Moses gave this order to the Israelites: “What the tribe of the descendants of Joseph is saying is right. ⁶This is what the LORD commands for Zelophehad’s daughters: They may marry anyone they please as long as they marry within their father’s tribal clan. ⁷No inheritance in Israel is to pass from one tribe to another, for every Israelite shall keep the tribal inheritance of their ancestors. ⁸Every daughter who inherits land in any Israelite tribe must marry someone in her father’s tribal clan, so that every Israelite will possess the inheritance of their ancestors. ⁹No inheritance may pass from one tribe to another, for each Israelite tribe is to keep the land it inherits.” ¹⁰So Zelophehad’s daughters did as the LORD commanded Moses.¹¹ Zelophehad’s daughters—Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milkah and Noah—married their cousins on their father’s side. ¹²They married within the clans of the descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in their father’s tribe and clan.” (Numbers 36:5-12)

According to what you had read the following can be concluded and explained:

1- The right to marry: ***“⁶This is what the LORD commands for Zelophehad’s daughters: They may marry ... ”*** (Numbers 36:6) Every disciple of Jesus has the right to marry and has a family but everything should go according to the will of God, and God’s word should come true in his/her life. The daughters of Zelophehad they had inheritance and they were prepared, so they can marry. The daughters of Zelophehad They can marry only Israelites as we stated above. In the New Testament is the same situation, as you are a disciple, you can marry a disciple of Jesus; a believer and follower of Christ as God’s word instructs us, ***“¹⁴Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”¹⁷ Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”¹⁸ And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”*** (2Corinthians 6:14-18) Paul also stated the right to marry, ***“²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.”*** (1Corinthians 7:28) Also Paul stated that about himself, ***“Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and***

the Lord’s brothers and Cephas.” (1Corinthians 9:5 NIV) ***“⁵Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?”*** (1Corinthians 9:5 KJV)

2- The restriction of choice: The daughters of Zelophehad although were allowed to marry but they were restricted to marry only from that particular tribe, ***“⁶This is what the LORD commands for Zelophehad’s daughters: They may marry anyone they please as long as they marry within their father’s tribal clan.”*** (Numbers 36:6 NIV) Now in regard to the statement of ***They may marry anyone they please*** you may understand that they can marry of what they like and wish. But let us read the same ***Numbers 36:6*** but in ***KJV*** ***“This is the thing which the LORD doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry.”*** What is said here in ***KJV*** is ***Let them marry to whom they think best;*** so it does not depend on their wishes, dreams or desires, ambition or heart condition. But the statement ***to whom they think best***, that they should use their mind, that based on the mind of God and the word of God, to find out to whom God called them to marry. So what God had put before them that they need to think properly before they can think about marriage. Their thinking should go with God’s word and His will and His plan, then only they can think who is the best, whom they are called, to be a helper to him, to marry, to do God’s will and plan.

3- There is always restriction about the choice of marriage: If you look intently into the word of God you will discover that. God with the solution that He gave to the daughters of Zelophehad, he put restrictions about the choice of marriage, ***“⁷No inheritance in Israel is to pass from one tribe to another, for every Israelite shall keep the tribal inheritance of their ancestors.”*** A disciple simply cannot marry another disciple unless ordained by God so that ministries will be built up and not abolished and diminished. That is why the parents and the elders of the ministry and church approval should go together to serve the purpose and the will of God.

4- Marriage choice restriction is generalized: God with the solution that He gave to the daughters of Zelophehad, he generalized that to the rest of the Israelites ***“⁸Every daughter who inherits land in any Israelite tribe must marry someone in her father’s tribal clan, so that every Israelite will possess the inheritance of their ancestors.”*** It says here, ***Every daughter who inherits;*** God generalized that to the rest of the Israelites daughters who are having inheritance. The same now today in the New Testament church, those who have ministry (i.e. they had water baptized) are obliged to follow God’s restriction and choice in marriage.

5- Marriage choice is linked with eternal inheritance: God with the solution that He gave to the daughters of Zelophehad, he linked the marriage of the disciples with the eternal inheritance, ***“⁸Every daughter who inherits land in any Israelite tribe must marry someone in her father’s tribal clan, so that every Israelite will possess the inheritance of their ancestors.”*** It says here, ***will possess the inheritance;*** at that time the inheritance of the daughters of Zelophehad was about their father’s land. For us today is our eternal life from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Eternal life for us today while we are on earth is what Jesus did for us on the cross and how we respond to that faithfully in how we live our lives and serve God and how we conduct our ministries and responsibilities.

6- Marriage choice should bring prosperity to the ministry: The disciple who has a service and ministry, his marriage should be for the enhancement of that as it is in accordance to God's word, will and plan. God's restriction in marriage for the disciples is the way that God used to lead the disciple to marry God's choice and will, and on the perfect time of God. ***"8 And every daughter, that possesseth an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel, shall be wife unto one of the family of the tribe of her father, that the children of Israel may enjoy every man the inheritance of his fathers."*** (Numbers 36:8 KJV) It says here, ***that the children of Israel may enjoy every man the inheritance of his fathers.*** Therefore marriage in accordance to God's word, will and choice is blessing, enjoyment and prosperity for the ministry.

7- There is always a right choice provided by God: *"10 So Zelophehad's daughters did as the LORD commanded Moses. 11 Zelophehad's daughters—Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milkah and Noah—married their cousins on their father's side. 12 They married within the clans of the descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in their father's tribe and clan."* God is not unjust and He will provide all needed things. When the church and disciples and elders and the parents and the children are abiding with these guidelines that God had placed in His word, things will go well and God's choices will be found out. When disobedience and disregard to God's word and instruction prevail, wrong matches with wrong choices will form new marriages and the ministry of God will be greatly affected. The daughters of Zelophehad did what Moses commanded and they married their cousins on their father's side as God ordained, ***They married within the clans of the descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in their father's tribe and clan.*** But if they would marry otherwise from outside their tribe then the tribe of Manasseh would have the right and will take their lands out of their hands. In the same way the church has the right not to entertain and keep the disciples who would do their own will and marry wrong choices that would affect the outcome and the quality of the service and the ministry of God. The leaders of the tribe of Manasseh they were responsible and they addressed the issue and put outlines for solutions so that mistakes would not happen that will affect the outcome of people's life, and God's ministry.

My Dear and Beloved: God had a purpose to place this message in your hand, to impart to you deeper understanding and to grasp in a clear way God's choice and will in your life. God called you to be responsible person, to think about God and about the people with you and about yourself, with God's perspective and eternity view. God had promised you eternity and life to the full as you abide with His will in your life and as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word to me. I commit myself to apply the principles that I learn from this message. Lord gives me the discernment and the wisdom of how to apply your word in my life and in the life of my family and ministry. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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