

Numbers 27 - Our God - Father and Shepherd

LAST CHAPTER - DIVIDING THE LAND - Num 26:52-53 ESV The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 53 "Among these **the land shall be divided for inheritance** according to the number of names.

Num 27:1-11 ESV **Then drew near** the daughters of Zelophehad the son of Hephher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, from the clans of Manasseh the son of Joseph. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 2 And **they stood before Moses** and **before Eleazar** the priest and **before the chiefs** and **all the congregation**, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying, 3 "**Our father died** in the wilderness. He was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah, but **died for his own sin. And he had no sons.** 4 Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? **Give to us a possession among our father's brothers.** 5 Moses brought their case before the LORD. 6 And the LORD said to Moses, 7 "**The daughters of Zelophehad are right. You shall give them possession of an inheritance** among their father's brothers and transfer the inheritance of their father to them.

They not only "drew near" - which took faith, courage, boldness

- They stood **before MOSES** The leader
- They stood before **ELEAZAR** the priest
- They stood before **THE CHIEFS**
- They stood before **ALL THE CONGREGATION**

They were willing to ASK - They asked for something that was out of the norm

- NOTE: *Normally when a father died, **his sons** divided his property*

The LORD said "They are right" - In other words He gave them what they asked for

God is a Father

Jesus put our asking in the context of family - We are asking of our FATHER

- Mat 7:7-11 ESV "**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if **his son asks him for bread**, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!**

YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED -- BEFORE -- YOU ASK

- Mat 6:7 ESV "And **when you pray**, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for **your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

Nothing held this man back from asking

Mar 10:46-52 ESV And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 **And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more,** "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." 50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus said to him, "**What do you want me to do for you?**" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." 52 And Jesus said to him, "**Go your way; your faith has made you well.**" And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

- Somehow God meets us in the ASKING
- I am sure Jesus knew what the man wanted
- We recognize how much we need Him, and HE is glorified

Does what you are asking for seem impossible? -- ASK ANYHOW

- Mat 14:26-29 ESV But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered him, "**Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.**" 29 He said, "**Come.**" So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Do you struggle with unbelief? -- ASK ANYHOW

- Mar 9:20-24 ESV And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 And Jesus said to him, "'If you can! **All things are possible for one who believes.**" 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "**I believe; help my unbelief!**"

Let us not be afraid to ask

- Eph 3:20 ESV Now to him who is **able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, according to the power at work within us,
- Jas 4:2 ESV You do not have, because you do not ask.

Our God is a Shepherd

Leadership Traits of Moses

He understood the limits of His wisdom (was not afraid to seek God's wisdom)

- 5 **Moses brought their case before the LORD.**

He yielded to the will of God for His life (even if it went against His wishes)

- Num 27:12-14 ESV The LORD said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel. 13 **When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, 14 because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin** when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes." (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)
 - For 40 years he led them, and now he is not going to be able to see the promised land
 - Yet He yielded to God's purpose

He cared about the welfare of the people of God - so he ASKED this of the LORD

- Num 27:15-21 ESV 15 Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, **appoint a man** over the congregation 17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD **may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.**" 18 So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, **a man in whom is the *Spirit*, and lay your hand on him.** 19 Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall **commission him in their sight.** 20 You shall **invest him with some of your *authority*, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may *obey*.** 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation."

The need for a shepherd

- That the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd
- There is only one mediator, and all God's people are priests unto God
- Yet the LORD has seen fit to place a man over the congregation

The LORD Gave Moses a strategy to care for the flock that included many leaders

Exo 18:13-25 ESV and **the people stood around Moses from morning till evening.** 14 When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" 15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; 16 when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." 17 Moses' father-in-law said to him, "**What you are doing is not good.** 18 You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. **You are not able to do it alone.**

Leaders of 10, 50, 100, and 1000 -- It is time to create small groups..."leaders of 10" if you will
Be thinking about

1. Leading a group
2. Being in a group
3. Hosting a group
4. Cities surrounding Alliance