

Unfinished Business

Read: Joshua 16:1-17:18

Main Idea: We must confront our unfinished business with courage, trusting that God equips us to claim His promises and take full possession of all He has given.

Key Verses: “However, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived in the midst of Ephraim to this day but have been made to do forced labor.” **(Joshua 16:10)**... “But the hill country shall be yours, for though it is a forest, you shall clear it and possess it to its farthest borders. For you shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have chariots of iron, and though they are strong.” **(Joshua 17:18)**

Key Principles

- Compromise rarely announces itself as rebellion, and the sin we agree to manage today is the sin that will govern us tomorrow.
- God's faithfulness reaches past nations and tribes down to single families, so no believer is overlooked in what He has promised.
- We do not have to be exceptional in faith to claim God's promises, only willing to ask.
- Fear rehearses the strength of the opposition while faith rehearses the strength of God, and whichever we rehearse will decide what we attempt.
- Complaining about our portion is a quiet way of accusing God of shortchanging us.
- God often gives through our obedience rather than around it, so the ground we refuse to enter is ground we will never possess.

Discussion

1. Why is it easier to manage a sin than to remove it? Where do you see that pattern in the way we handle our own failures?
2. What does Ephraim's arrangement with the Canaanites at Gezer reveal about the long term cost of a compromise that felt harmless at the time?
3. How does the boldness of Zelophehad's daughters challenge the way we approach God's promises when the outcome still feels uncertain?
4. What helps you keep standing on God's word when your circumstances have not changed yet?
5. How could the tribes of Joseph be numerous and afraid at the same time? How do we make that same mistake of measuring the obstacle instead of God?
6. Where is the unfinished business in your own life right now? What is one step you will take this week to confront it instead of complaining about it?

Prayer

- Pray for courage to finish the work God has already commanded.
- Pray that:
 - No ground God has entrusted to our church family would be left unclaimed
 - No compromise would be permitted to settle in and stay in our lives.
 - Fear of what is strong would never silence faith in our families.

Unfinished Business

Joshua 16 & 17

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| I. | <u>Complete the work God commanded.</u> | 16:1–10 |
| 1. | <u>Receive</u> the <u>gift</u> God gives. | 16:1–9 |
| 2. | <u>Reject</u> the <u>compromise</u> God forbids. | 16:10 |
| II. | <u>Claim the inheritance God promised.</u> | 17:1–6 |
| 1. | Step <u>forward</u> in bold <u>faith</u> . | 17:1–4 |
| 2. | Stand <u>firm</u> on God's <u>word</u> . | 17:5–6 |
| III. | <u>Conquer the obstacles that remain.</u> | 17:7–18 |
| 1. | <u>Face</u> the challenge without <u>delay</u> . | 17:7–13 |
| 2. | <u>Finish</u> the task without <u>complaint</u> . | 17:14–18 |

NEXT WEEK:

Don't Delay

Joshua 18 & 19