



Life Group Study Notes

“Think 3: My Inheritance”

Pastor James Lowe - November 5, 2017

Warm up questions (10-15 mins)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What would you do if you received a million dollar inheritance?
- What kind of inheritance are you leaving behind?
- What promise did you receive that excited you the most as a child?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Inheritance

Since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward, you ought to be serving the Lord Christ in all aspects of your life. **(Col 3:24 ESV)** God has promised us an inheritance in Christ Jesus.

In Colossians 3 the writer explains that as God’s chosen people, there is a certain way we are to live. “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...” **(Col 3:12-13 ESV)** Part of the inheritance that we receive as a consequence of believing in the work of Jesus Christ death on the cross is a renewed mind; a regenerated spirit, and as a consequence a new way of living. As it says in Romans and in Ephesians that we were dead in our sins, but God in His mercy made us alive in Christ. **(Eph 2; Rom 6 ESV)** A person who is alive is going to live differently than a person who is dead.

Promises of God

Joshua 1: 1-5 After the death of Moses, the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Throughout the Bible there are figures which serve as a type of Christ who foreshadow the person and work of Jesus Christ. Joshua's name is the Hebraic pronunciation of Jesus. It means "God will save." One could also translate it to mean God will deliver. During the time of Moses God promised that He would deliver the people of Israel, and bring them into the Promised Land, but there were certain conditions that they had to fulfill. Unfortunately, an entire generation as well as Moses himself broke those conditions, and as a consequence, they were unable to enter into the Promised Land. When God commanded Moses to send scouts to the Promised Land and to give a report, the majority of the scouts returned with bad news and were fearful. Only Caleb gave a good report. Because Caleb followed God with all his heart, God promised Caleb that he would enter into the land and take possession of it, but to everyone else he said that they would not see the promised land (Num 14 ESV).

Joshua was Moses' assistant. Everywhere Moses went Joshua went as well. He even entered into the tent of meeting where Moses would meet with God face to face. Often times the call of God in our life is discovered through serving others. Joshua had served as the general of Israel's army, but rather than demanding high status and position, he chose to serve Moses. He displayed the character of humility and chose to be a servant. He did not try to obtain promotion by his own effort. God is the one who gives promotion. When Moses died Joshua was commissioned by God to lead the people of Israel. It was through Joshua that God would fulfill His promise to the people of Israel to enter into the Promised Land.

Conditions

Joshua 1:6-9 ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Often times God's promise in our lives comes with a condition. These conditions require us to respond in faith and obedience. We cannot just sit around waiting for God to do everything, but instead when we hear God's promise we should be prepared in expectation of receiving it. God gave Joshua some conditions to follow in relation to the promise he had given.

- Be courageous.
- Keep the law, and meditate on it neither tuning to the left or to the right.
- Do not be discouraged.
- Go.

Our inheritance

1 Peter 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jesus' work on the cross has secured for us an inheritance by His own precious blood. God sees us and receives us based on the righteousness of Christ, and not our own. In this we have much cause to rejoice. In response we are called to walk in obedience to Christ.

Discussion (10-15 Minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our own lives.

- What are some things you believe God has promised you?
- How are you preparing for God's inheritance?
- What are some things you can change today in response to God's promises?

Prayer (10-15 Minutes)

Pray for one of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray to respond in faith and obedience to God's promises.
- Ask the Lord if there is anything that is hindering God from fulfilling His promises in our lives.
- Pray that we would be strong and courageous.