

## Articles

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### The Sonship of Women

by Cindy Coates M.Div.

Sonship in scripture always speaks of covenant and inheritance. The third day Church must walk in the Spirit and understand the eternal meaning of such concepts. Many have been hindered by the generic implication of the word, "sonship." The time has come for kingdom women to move from the wilderness over into their covenant place, possessing that which was already possessed for them in, through and by Jesus Christ. This deliverance from the wilderness into the promise happens by faith. Hebrews 6:12 says that we are to be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

In Numbers 27, we are introduced to the first women who go from the wilderness into their inheritance:

Then came the daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manassah, from the families of Manassah son of Joseph. The names his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah.

They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the leaders of the congregation, at the door of the Tent of Meeting, saying, "Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among those who assembled together against the Lord in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin and he had no sons. Why should the name of our father be removed from his family, because he had no sons? Give to us a possession among our father's brethren."

Moses brought their case before the Lord. And the Lord said to Moses, "The daughters of Zelophehad are just and speak correctly; you shall surely give them an inheritance among their father's brethren, and you shall cause their father's inheritance to pass to them."

Zelophehad was a Hebrew slave in Egypt. When he was led out of Egypt, he entered the wilderness just like everyone else. Somewhere in the wilderness he died in his own sin because he lost his faith in God's promise to lead them into the land flowing with milk and honey (honey is a type of revelation). This lack of faith is known as sin.

(Romans 14:23) For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

(Hebrews 4:2) For we also have heard the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not mix faith with it.

Here we can see that the Hebrews who died in the wilderness failed to receive their inheritance because they did not mix faith with God's Word. We must not make the same mistake if we plan on leaving the wilderness successfully.

It's always a tragedy when someone chooses doubt and unbelief over faith in God.

I've often wondered if Zelophehad lost his faith in possessing the Promise Land because he kept passing out "pink cigars," hoping that eventually his wife would bear a son instead. Could it be that he lacked understanding in the Spirit and therefore lacked hope in the future? I have actually observed couples who keep "trying for a boy" when they had a house full of growing girls as if successful reproduction hinged on the gender of the offspring. Help us Lord.

Zelophehad could have been exceedingly blessed if he had known how faithful God is to His Word. His inheritance had been arranged generations before him. He was a descendant of Joseph, son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham. How could anyone deny this lineage? Joseph was chosen by God to inherit the birthright of the firstborn even though he was second to the youngest.

(1 Chronicles 5:1-2) Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (was the firstborn but when he defiled his father's marriage bed, his rights as firstborn were given to the son's of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the birthright. Though Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came the leader, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph )...

God is a covenant keeping God. He remembers His promises and when the daughters of Zelophehad requested their father's inheritance, God saw Joseph! God sees the seed not the gender of the beneficiary. God allotted perpetual provision for all of the "sons" of Joseph.

Now we have a problem. These daughters of Zelophehad were not boys (natural sons). Moses was challenged by the request of these five women who stood among men and dared to ask for what was only given to men up until that time. Land was the most important thing a man could acquire. If a man had land, he had authority and influence. This was unacceptable for women in that culture as women were considered property and were buried with the dogs. Much like Islam today.

God had some shaking to do in the priesthood. Moses had spent 40 years on the backside of the desert tending the flocks of Jethro who, like Zelophehad, had only daughters, seven to be exact. One of which became Moses' wife, Ziporah, a shepherdess (pastor) and worked like a man. Moses was acquainted with this breed of women. They did not threaten him, nor did he seek to oppress them. He actually admired their strength in the beauty of holiness.

Notice Moses did not confer with flesh and blood on the matter of these women receiving their inheritance (land). He went humbly to the Lord and the Lord told him that they were not to be discriminated against because of their gender. God affirmed and validated them to be counted among the men and receive their inheritance in like manner. God is no respecter of persons on any level.

(1 Samuel 16:7) The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

God sees every man and every woman born of the Spirit as a son. Our sonship is by faith in the Son of God as we are in Him. Faith in our covenant sonship will usher us into the fullness of what Jesus made available especially as it concerns ministry.

(Galatians 3: 26-29) You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

The Spirit of God's Son, Jesus will transform the heart of a daughter into a son. When daughters get the revelation of sonship, there will be a greater measure released of the Spirit of Elijah, which is the Spirit of sonship. This revelation on sonship among women is essential to destroying the spirit of Jezebel, which is an illegitimate spirit that seeks to castrate the heart of prophets (male & female) so they can not reproduce more sons (covenant people).

God would that all of us receive the Spirit of adoption, leave the wilderness and enter into the Land. The daughters of Zelophehad were not denied their covenant place with men. The land that they settled into was Gilead. There was a balm in Gilead of which they were stewards over. Perhaps the message that we can glean from this is the potential for women to occupy a Land that will bring healing.

What a wonderful Father we all have to give us all the Spirit of His Son. The time is now that women of God embrace sonship lest they die in the wilderness. Jesus never oppressed women. He is God and God said, "Give them their inheritance!"

(Romans 8:14) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the Sons of God