

Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 2

Thursday, April 22



Redwoods in California

Photo Credit: Dave Blickensderfer

The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hephher, 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 and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, "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. Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives."

So Moses brought their case before the LORD, and the LORD said to him, "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." Numbers 27:1-7

This is a most unusual passage tucked into a book we rarely read, the book of Numbers. The remarkable thing here is that these five daughters have the courage to question the law that says that an inheritance should only go to the male heirs of their deceased father, Zelophehad. They petition Moses, the great leader, and Eleazar, the priest.

This is a wonderful example of God's grace. When Moses takes the case to God, God affirms the request of the daughters. It is counter-cultural. It is unthinkable. And yet God's grace in providing for these daughters is evident. And it changes the law going forward.

This is one of the difficult things about grace. Everything we've been taught, think we are certain of, understand without debate...is often not regarded with we think of God's grace. It is lavish, abundant and colors outside the lines of our nice, orderly thought processes.

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Even the lowly, the unworthy and we are showered with the grace of God. If only we could do the same for those around us. It is important to have the courage to speak up for right relationship and God's grace.