

Sermon Study

Kingdom Under Construction
Joshua 18:1-19:48

July 8, 2018

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



AUTHOR'S NOTES (summary of key points for this study)

Key points of this passage:

1. God's allotment is perfect, sufficient, and complete.
2. Idleness is not rewarded in God's Kingdom.
3. Scripture deals with real people and places, and corroborates itself at every turn.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

Sloth, delay, laziness, idleness. We'd all have to admit to struggling with them to some degree today and the Biblical narrative is no different. What about you? How do they affect your life and what steps do you take to solve that?

Go
(your group on mission)

To quote Pastor Mike from his April 29th sermon, “What land are you taking that the Lord is giving to you?” What does he have next for you, your family, your small group, the Church?

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture:

Joshua 18:1-3 ¹ Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them. ² There remained among the people of Israel seven tribes whose inheritance had not yet been apportioned. ³ So Joshua said to the people of Israel, “How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you?”

Discussion:

1. Start with prayer.

2. Review Joshua 18:1-19:48

3. This passage comes off as a large list of names both of people and cities, most of which are difficult to pronounce (try saying any of them 5 times fast). What do you do with passages like this?

4. Is it possible that sections like this in scripture are more valuable than we give them credit for? What purpose could a detailed map and list of people serve our cause?

5. In our passage, we find the Israelites camped at Shiloh. They've set up the tabernacle and have delayed moving in to their divine inheritance. I'm sure they had lots of excuses, fatigue, living off the spoils of war, but somehow they seem indifferent to the wonderful gift God is trying to give them. What about us? What has He given us that we refuse to take?

6. How does Joshua go about dividing the land? Is there any significance to the order here?

7. Consider this, upon further reflection, we find that the lots were divided and assigned exactly as Jacob had prophesized! Whether it's Benjamin being situated between Judah and Joseph as described by Moses in Deuteronomy (33:7, 33:12, 33:13) or the order in which they appear all went according to God's plan! Why do we constantly find it surprising when God does exactly what He said He would do, as He said He would do it?

8. This passage deals with real people and real places, historically corroborated by archeology. The other events in scripture unfold from these very territories and attest to scripture's authority. What may seem like a random name of a person or city really reveals how each wonderfully unique clean finds their way into God's story. What does that say about us? How does it feel to know that He has designed a place for us in the same narrative? What do we do with that?

Give
(your group serving each other)

Pray that you and your group would continue playing your unique parts in God's Kingdom story, no matter how small or cumbersome they may seem.