**How to Leave a Place of Ministry**

1 Chron. 4:38-40

Session Notes

***If God tarries, you WILL leave a place of ministry! The question that may determine the health of that organization and the reputation of your ministry is HOW will you leave it?***

In ministry, we understandably talk more about going to a place of ministry than leaving from it.

In Scripture, we have a picture a group of people who model for us the importance of leaving a place well.

<1 Chron. 4:38-40>

**Context**

* Family of Simeon (cf. 1 Chron. 4:24 ff) came to the land
* They came during the reign of Hezekiah (4:41)
  + Hezekiah born around 740 BC
* Joshua settled the land (depending on when you date the exodus …)
  + Early date (1440 – 40 years in wilderness - @ 1400 settlement in Canaan)
  + Late date (1290 – 40 years in wilderness - @ 1250 settlement in Canaan)
* So, this is between 510 and 660 years **after** the settlement in Promised Land

***They were LATE, but they got there!***

Why is that relevant?

* Look who is still there? (1 Chron. 4:43) – Amalekites
  + Israel was instructed to get rid of the Amalekites 500 – 660 years ago
  + Gedor (1 Chron. 4:39) – is the territory they were given by Joshua 600 years ago
* ***It’s never too late to be obedient to the command of the Lord!***

***But, that’s not really the lesson that I want us to examine from this passage***

**Situation**

1. The Hamites were ONCE there, but they are NOT there any more
2. Not all of them were there, but SOME of them were there and enough to serve as representatives of the whole
3. The land was different because they were there

Who were the Hamites?

* Descendants of Ham
  + Gen. 9:18 – saw his father naked …
  + The nature of his**curse**
  + Was God finished with Ham and his son forever?
* In this passage, somehow the Hamites came to the land and made a positive impact on it

**LESSONS**

* They found:

* + rich and good pasture
  + land was broad, quiet, and peaceful
* “FOR (“Because”) some Hamites used to live there ….”

**When God Leads you to Leave**

* This study is not about when you should leave …
* There’s nothing *necessarily* wrong with leaving a place
* But, when we leave, there’s a lesson here about leaving it better than when we arrived

**How to Leave a Place**

1. **Rich** – word means, “fat, robust” – sometimes used of the oil poured on sacrifices
   * Always reflective of abundance; or blessed of God\
2. **Good pasture** – good means “beneficial” – suitable, pleasing, well-taken care of
3. **Broad** – the Hebrew here means, “wide,” could convey the idea here of “open” – as in cleared for farming
   * Prepared; someone had done the necessary work for it to succeed
4. **Quiet** – undisturbed; no conflicts; HALOT – one translation – “unworried ease.”
   * No worries
5. **Peaceful** – no conflicts

The land was

1. Abundant
2. Good
3. Ready
4. No worries
5. No conflicts

If you are going to leave a place … then leave the place:

1. Richer than when you came because an effective ministry was done there
2. A pleasant place for someone to serve
3. You have done what was necessary for the work there to succeed
4. There are no hidden conflicts within
5. There are no threatening conflicts from without