

*Calvary Sermon Notes September 11, 2011*  
*Sermon: "Blessed to be a Blessing"*  
*Today's Text: Joshua 21*  
*Series: Stewardship*

**Joshua 21-25 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Then came near **the heads of the fathers of the Levites** unto **Eleazar** the priest, and unto Joshua the son of Nun, and unto the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel;

- All **PRIESTS** were Levites.

<sup>2</sup>And they spake unto them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, **The LORD commanded by the hand of Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with the suburbs thereof for our cattle.**

**Numbers 35:1-8 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,

<sup>2</sup>**Command the children of Israel, that they give unto the Levites of the inheritance of their possession cities to dwell in; and ye shall give also unto the Levites suburbs for the cities round about them.**

<sup>3</sup>And the cities shall they have to dwell in; and the suburbs of them shall be for their cattle, and for their goods, and for all their beasts.

<sup>4</sup>And the suburbs of the cities, which ye shall give unto the Levites, shall reach from the wall of the city and outward a thousand cubits round about.

<sup>5</sup>And ye shall measure from without the city on the east side two thousand cubits, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits; and the city shall be in the midst: this shall be to them the suburbs of the cities.

<sup>6</sup>And **among the cities which ye shall give unto the Levites there shall be six cities for refuge**, which ye shall appoint for the manslayer, that he may flee thither: and to them ye shall add forty and two cities.

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<sup>7</sup>So all the cities which ye shall give to the Levites shall be forty and eight cities: them shall ye give with their suburbs.

<sup>8</sup>And the cities which ye shall give shall be of the possession of the children of Israel: from them that have many ye shall give many; but from them that have few ye shall give few: every one shall give of his cities unto the Levites according to his inheritance which he inheriteth.

- Giving is **COMMANDED** by the Lord, not the preacher.

### **2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 24 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the **churches of Macedonia;**

<sup>2</sup>How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and **their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.**

<sup>3</sup>For to their power, I bear record, yea, and **beyond their power they were willing of themselves;**

<sup>4</sup>Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

<sup>5</sup>And this they did, not as we hoped, **but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.**

<sup>6</sup>Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

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<sup>8</sup>I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and **to prove the sincerity of your love.**

<sup>9</sup>For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

<sup>10</sup>And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

<sup>11</sup>**Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.**

<sup>12</sup>For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted **according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.**

<sup>13</sup>**For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened:**

<sup>14</sup>**But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:**

<sup>15</sup>**As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.**

<sup>24</sup>Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, **the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.**

**Luke 12:48 (KJV)**

<sup>48</sup>But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.**

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- I was **BLESSED** to be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup>And **the children of Israel gave unto the Levites out of their inheritance**, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their suburbs.

- Not equal gifts, equal **SACRIFICES**.
- The children of Israel gave out of their **INHERITANCE**.

<sup>4</sup>And the lot came out for the families of the **Kohathites**: and the children of **Aaron the priest**, which were of the Levites, had by lot out of the tribe of Judah, and out of the tribe of Simeon, and out of the tribe of Benjamin, thirteen cities.

- The **LEVITES** were set apart for God's service.

<sup>5</sup>And the rest of the children of Kohath had by lot out of the families of the tribe of Ephraim, and out of the tribe of Dan, and out of the half tribe of Manasseh, ten cities.

<sup>6</sup>And the children of **Gershon** had by lot out of the families of the tribe of Issachar, and out of the tribe of Asher, and out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the half tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities.

<sup>7</sup>The children of **Merari** by their families had out of the tribe of Reuben, and out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

<sup>8</sup>And **the children of Israel gave by lot unto the Levites these cities with their suburbs**, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

- Israel, in **OBEDIENCE** to God's command, fulfilled its responsibility to God and to the tribe of Levi.
- They gave out of their **OBEDIENCE** and out of their **ABUNDANCE**.

<sup>41</sup>**All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel were forty and eight cities with their suburbs.**

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- The **LEVITES** were to be totally dependent on God through people.
- The **CHURCH** is totally dependent on God through the saints.

<sup>42</sup>These cities were every one with their suburbs round about them: thus were all these cities.

<sup>43</sup>And the **LORD** gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.

<sup>44</sup>And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

<sup>45</sup>There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

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