



## Life Group Sermon Study Notes

### We Are Family - "The Power of One Voice"

Pastor Carol Fidler – August 16, 2020

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Have you had opportunities for conversation about injustice in your home, workplace, or other?
- Share a time when you had to speak up in an uncomfortable situation.

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

**Numbers 27:1-11** <sup>1</sup>"The daughters of Zelophehad... belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah. They came forward <sup>2</sup>and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, <sup>3</sup>"Our father died in the wilderness...<sup>4</sup> Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives."<sup>5</sup> So Moses brought their case before the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and the LORD said to him, <sup>7</sup>"What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relatives."

In the message this week, Pastor Carol shared two stories, one from the book of Numbers dating back to the 1300's B.C. and the other, a momentous event that transpired 100 years ago in our nation's history. Both serve as pertinent examples of "the power of one voice." The outcomes were accomplished because people, no different than us, **knew who they were, spoke up, and made a difference.**

The first story is from the book of Numbers. The five daughters of Zelophehad knew that as women, they would not inherit their father's property consequent to his recent death, in accordance with the law at that time. Imagine the stress for these women to confront Moses and other leaders about the fairness and integrity of a long-standing law. Yet, they knew who they were, daughters of a man faithful to God, deserving his name and property to pass down to them

and stay within his family. So, they spoke up and they made a difference, not only for their family but in what would become the law going forward, providing the same safeguard to other families.

Next example is relevant to this month as the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. The setting was not unlike the increased stirring of our nation today: war was not that far behind them, a worldwide pandemic killed millions of people worldwide, it was an election year, and certain people groups were treated unjustly. The culmination of 70 years of work to gain voting privileges for women was now to be decided. It did not look favorable with anti-suffragist beliefs still strongly supported by many of our nation's political leaders. It came down to a poignant moment in the Tennessee House of Representatives on August 18, 1920 when Harry T. Burns, the youngest legislator at just 24 years old, had the courage to vote yes. Then Banks Turner, who at first remained silent, spoke up to vote yes which broke the tie. Both of their votes were essential for Tennessee to impact the final national decision to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment.

How could these individuals have known the long-term implications of their vote and its impact on social and civil rights for all people (i.e. child labor laws, custody rights, etc). These two men knew who they were, one as a son of an intelligent, strong woman who deserved a voice, and both as legislators justly serving the rights of all people.

Thank God for all the men and women in our history who spoke up and made a difference. Now, what can **we** say or do to make a difference?

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What are injustices currently existing where we can raise our voice and make a difference?
- How can we encourage others in believing that their voice matters?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.**

- Pray for those whose voice has been silenced and/or who do not believe their voice matters.
- Pray for fresh courage and strength for us individually, empowered by the unity of our Christian family, to make a difference for God's kingdom.
- Thank God for loving us so much that he gave us eternal life, where there will be no more injustice, through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.