

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

22/08/2021 — Women of the Bible – The 5 daughters of Zelophehad: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah.

Faith



Welcome to this weeks thoughts
Minster Bethel is planning its return back to services at the church starting in September
Please contact any deacon re the return to church plans

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am

John 14:1-3

Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

Our hymn today is: "Lord of all hopefulness!"

[Lord of all Hopefulness - YouTube](#)

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
No cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking,
And give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.*



*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
At the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours,
And give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.*



*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing,
And give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.*

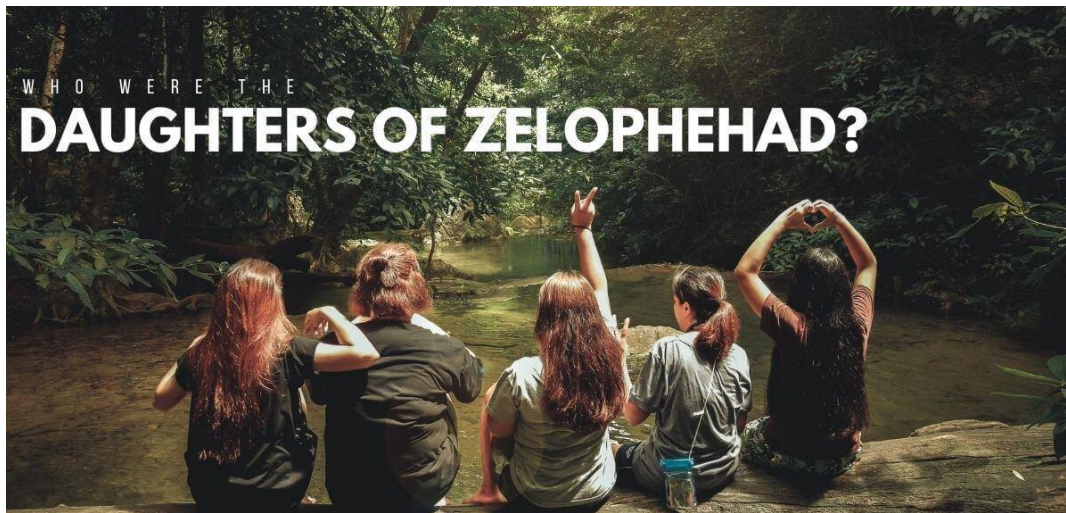


*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
Whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping,
And give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.*



The reading today is Numbers 27:1-11

[Numbers 27:1-11 NIVUK - Zelophehad's daughters - The - Bible Gateway](#)



Faith of the Sisters

Today we are going to explore the lives of 5 brave women – the daughters of Zelophehad: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah.

Interestingly the name *Zelophehad* means “*protection against fear.*”

What is it that protects us from fear?

Can you imagine this scene from Moses time.

The five daughters of Zelophehad boldly approached Moses, Eleazar the priest, the chiefs and all the congregation at the Tent of Meeting.

This was unheard of in this day in age! Women going before the male leadership to question the law of inheritance – just did not happen.

If you look back at Numbers chapter 26, you will see that God called Moses to take a census of the new generation of Israel, who were about to enter the Promised Land. Within this list you will find all the names of the males who were the heads of the tribes, clans and families.

The women were not named.

So this took great faith for the five daughters to approach Moses before all of the congregation of Israel!

Once the leaders and congregation were listening, they made their plea. I am sure they had butterflies in their stomachs and a tinge of fear, but these women were very wise.

First, they cleared their fathers’s name by declaring he was not a rebel. Then they made it clear, there were no sons to inherit the father’s land and asked if they could have their father’s inheritance.

Moses listened and had compassion on these women. He took this matter straight to God Almighty, the creator of the universe!

The Lord declared: “*The daughters of Zelophehad are **right.***”

The law was changed because of the daughters faith.

These women were single. They could have played the victim card and moped about with no brothers and no land. They could have gone from tent to tent complaining. They could have rushed into marriage to solve their problem themselves. But they did not. These were noble, godly women who trusted that God would provide for them and were willing to courageously step outside their comfort zone to see this happen. They trusted the leadership of Moses and God to be gracious and just and because of their faith – they were protected against fear.

Do we have this sort of faith? We must not run from things that are hard – especially when we know we are doing what is right. Let's take strength from these women and ask God to be used for change in this world!

We also see that they did not live for the present. They had faith in God's promises of a land to come.

This land these women were asking for, they had never seen. In chapter 26, the Promised Land was being divided amongst the people. The generation that went before them were fearful about entering the Promised Land and as a consequence they all died in the wilderness and did not get to enter the Promised Land.

The daughters of Zelophehad believed in a land to come. They believed it was good and they wanted an inheritance there.

Do we have this sort of faith? Jesus told us of a place He is preparing for us – another land – heaven. This world is not our home. We are just passing through. We must not live for today but for eternity.

Finally, they had faith they could be used by God to bring about change!

These 5 women had the courage to approach leaders to make a change! As a result of their faith, they were given a portion just the same as the men. They not only gained an inheritance for themselves but for ALL women, in this situation, for generations to come!

Do we have this sort of faith? These women were young and focused. Life had dealt them a difficult hand as they had suffered a huge loss without their father's protection. But clearly, this father had raised them to walk with the Lord and to have faith. They knew right from wrong and their request was granted from the Lord.

Will you dare to challenge something in this world that you know is wrong and push to make it right? Are you willing to make a difference for generations to come? Are you living for eternity today?

What protects us against fear?

There's just one thing.



Our Second Hymn is “Great is Thy faithfulness”

[Great is Thy Faithfulness \(Tune: Faithfulness - 3vv & chorus\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Today's Pray:

Dear Lord.

Help us dare to challenge the things we know are wrong. Help us to make a difference today for the generations to come and help us to live for eternity today.

Amen.



BibleWise

Zelophehad's Five Daughters

Use the key to match the correct symbol to the corresponding letter to discover the names of Zelophehad's five daughters.



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