

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

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Numbers 27:1-11

27Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Zelophehad was son of Hopher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh son of Joseph, a member of the Manassite clans. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. 2They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and they said, 3“Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the Lord in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin; and he had no sons. 4Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a

possession among our father’s brothers.” 5Moses brought their case before the Lord. 6And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 7The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them. 8You shall also say to the Israelites, “If a man dies, and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. 9If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. 10If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. 11And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as the Lord commanded Moses.”

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. What stands out to you about the courage of Zelophehad’s

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daughters? How do you respond when something feels unfair or unjust?

3. Have you ever had to speak up for yourself or for others? What gave you the strength to do so—or what held you back?
4. In what ways has tradition or the “usual way of doing things” been challenged in your life or community? How did you (or others) respond?
5. What does this story tell us about God’s concern for justice and equity? How might this challenge how we see laws or systems today?
6. Moses listened, and God affirmed the daughters’ request. What does this say about leadership and being open to change?
7. How can faith communities make space for unheard voices—especially those historically left out? Who are the “Zelophehad’s daughters” among us today?
8. Is there a situation in your life right now where you feel called to speak up? What would it look like to approach it with both courage and humility?
9. How can you use your voice (individually or as a community) to advocate for fairness and inclusion? What practical step can you take this week?