

Title: No Charge - Joshua 15 1-19

Read:

¹ The lot for the people of Judah, their clans, extended south to the border of Edom, to the wilderness of Zin in the extreme south. ²⁻⁴ The southern border ran from the tip of the Salt Sea south of The Tongue; it ran southward from Scorpions Pass, went around Zin and just south of Kadesh Barnea; then it ran past Hezron, ascended to Addar, and curved around to Karka; from there it passed along to Azmon, came out at the Brook of Egypt, ending at the Sea. This is the southern boundary. ⁵⁻¹¹ The eastern boundary: the Salt Sea up to the mouth of the Jordan. The northern boundary started at the shallows of the Sea at the mouth of the Jordan, went up to Beth Hoglah and around to the north of Beth Arabah and to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. The border then ascended to Debir from Trouble Valley and turned north toward Gilgal, which lies opposite Red Pass, just south of the gorge. The border then followed the Waters of En Shemesh and ended at En Rogel. The border followed the Valley of Ben Hinnom along the southern slope of the Jebusite ridge (that is, Jerusalem). It ascended to the top of the mountain opposite Hinnom Valley on the west, at the northern end of Rephaim Valley; the border then took a turn at the top of the mountain to the spring, the Waters of Nephtoah, and followed the valley out to Mount Ephron, turned toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath Jearim), took another turn west of Baalah to Mount Seir, curved around to the northern shoulder of Mount Jearim (that is, Kesalon), descended to Beth Shemesh, and crossed to Timnah. The border then went north to the ridge of Ekron, turned toward Shikkeron, passed along to Mount Baalah, and came out at Jabneel. The border ended at the Sea. ¹² The western border: the coastline of the Great Sea. This is the boundary around the people of Judah for their clans. ¹³ Joshua gave Caleb son of Jephunneh a section among the people of Judah, according to God's command. He gave him Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. Arba was the ancestor of Anak. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Caleb drove out three Anakim from Hebron: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, all descendants of Anak. He marched up from there against the people of Debir. Debir used to be called Kiriath Sepher. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kiriath Sepher and takes it, I'll give my daughter Acsah to him as his wife." Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, took it; so Caleb gave him his daughter Acsah as his wife. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ When she arrived she got him to ask for farmland from her father. As she dismounted from her donkey Caleb asked her, "What would you like?" She said, "Give me a marriage gift. You've given me desert land; Now give me pools of water!" And he gave her the upper and the lower pools.

Think:

Caleb meets his wife and what is his first reaction. Is it "hey you are my reward for doing battle, so you will do my bidding"? Are his first thoughts about what he is due? No his very first words are "what would you like?" Now that's an example for any marriage. Actually that's an example for any relationship. When we meet our friends what are the thoughts in our mind? Do we think what can I do with this relationship, what can I get out of it, or do we ask the question, what can I do for you? There is a really old song which tells the story of a boy and his mother. The mother asks the boy if he would mind doing something and he says he will do it for some money. Anyway, the song then goes on to list all the things the mother does for the boy and the punch line is, no charge. That means the mother didn't see the opportunity to serve the boy as a money making exercise, she did it because she loved him. Naturally the boy gets the message and does what his mother has asked without charge. This is obviously a key message that we must learn because Caleb isn't the only example of this type of selfless love shown in the Bible. The Bible is littered with heroes who put other people's needs before their own. And then of course we have the ultimate example of someone asking what can I do for these people rather than what can I get out of these people. Jesus on the cross was an expensive gift from God, but guess what, there is no charge.

Pray:

Lord thank you for your gift, which cost much but which you charge nothing for. Lord please help me show the same selfless love for the relationships in my life. Amen

Action:

What can I do for you? How many times can you ask that question today? Bet I can beat you. Bye.