



**2023-5783 The Year of Retribution, Recompense, & Payback**  
**Taking Advantage of the Opportunity, Despite the Opposition Pt. 2**

**Sunday Sermon – May 7, 2023**  
**Bishop Steven A. Norman**

**Joshua 1:10-17 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, 11 "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'" 12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, 13 "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.' 14 Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them, 15 until the Lord has given your brethren rest, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the Lord's servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise." 16 So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the Lord your God be with you, as He was with Moses.**

One of the lessons we should receive from studying our text scripture is the importance of preparation.

God has set everything up for success to receive what He has promise.

**“But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor”,**

In order to go and take advantage of the opportunity we must arm ourselves against opposition and know who we are in this world. God commands Joshua to take the second generation of Israelites into the promised Land which He had given to the forefather, Abraham, many years ago.

The first generation didn't take advantage of the opportunity because of opposition.

Often the promise of what God has given comes as an opportunity to receive it and/or attain it.

It will often be within our sight but out of our natural reach.

So, it was with this second generation of Israelites, the opportunity to attain the promise was staring them right in the face.

Not only was the opportunity to attain it staring them right in the face, but opposition was there as well.

The same is true with us, God will always be true to what He has promised, but rest assured there will be opposition.

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### *Three different types of opposition*

- 1. The opposition within.**
- 2. The natural opposition.**
- 3. The opposition from the enemy.**

#### *The opposition within*

Overcoming the enemy within me!

Fear, doubt, unbelief, and the wrong attitude...etc.

These are created within us mainly in three different ways.

#### *Past Results of Others*

Never let the results of others cause you to doubt the results God says we can get with Him!

**Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**

#### **Past Failures of Your Own**

Try to allow what was a failure in the past to be nothing more than a learning tool for today's success.

**John 21:3-6...So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. 4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. 5 He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied.**

It's good for us to consult the Lord about the opportunities that have not been produced. In John the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter it says the disciples had been fishing all night long and caught nothing.

**John 21:3-6...So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. 4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. 5 He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied.**

Sometimes it's good for us to consult the Lord about the opportunities that we have taken that have not produced.

Jesus said, cast your nets on the right side and when they did, they drew in so many fish, that it was hard for them to contain them all.

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Notice Jesus knows where the right side of the opportunity rests.

Understand with Christ, nothing beats a failure but a try!

***Generational results from those who came before us.***

Don't let their negative results set expectations for the future for what God says we can have.

The second generation of Israelites looked past the results of the first generation.

They look straight to what God had said, and they trusted His Word because of His faithfulness and His ability.

There are times you're going to have to think beyond the success that anyone in your family has achieved, to reach the success God has for you.

**Ephesians 5:15-17 (New Living Translation) So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, ...**

So, what does the Bible tell us about how fools live.

**Psalms 14:1 Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."**

Or it could say, "only fools make decisions like there is no God".

***... but (make decisions) like those who are wise.***

Make decisions like you have a God, a God who loves you, and wants the best for you, who is always on your side, and He knows all.

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, (the opposition that we face) which is but for a moment,**

When we start to go after what God had promised, the opposition probably won't last long. We elongate the process by not taking action to attain it.

***...is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,***

See the opposition as a tool to work for you and not against you.

See it as a tool to help make you wiser, stronger in faith and confident in God. See it as a courage builder...etc.

**18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

Don't let what you see be the determining factor as to whether you go after the promises of God or not. Let the Word of God be that determining factor.

Trust God, if He opens the opportunity for success, then He has placed everything around you for it to happen.

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**Ephesians 5:16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.**

Even though the days are evil, we must understand that there is still great opportunity for us to succeed, for the Kingdom of God.

Know this, the greater the evil, the greater opportunity for success that God has granted us.

**Romans 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things?**

When facing opposition, if you can't do anything else, speak to it.

**...If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Because God is for us, we have a right take advantage of the opportunity.

**32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

God didn't even spare his own Son so that we would have an opportunity to take advantage of everything that He has freely given to us.

And if God has given it to us, then it is ours for the taking.