Women of Africa Care Pty Ltd

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Episode 49

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Topic: With Freedom Comes Responsibility!

1. **Freedom = Free + Domain**

The liberty to domain my environment (Dominate ruler of the birds of the air, creatures in the ocean, every living creature on the earth." Genesis 1.26 People who do not operate in freedom are enslaved. Irresponsibility leads to slavery. Freedom is a process – Every wilderness is a process of freedom transformation.

Ecc 10.16 "Woe to the land whose king was a servant[a]

3 tests of passing for God to trust you in the promised land He has prepared for you namely:

a. Sexual / Flesh appetite (Body appetite)
b. Test for power and famehood
c. The test of pride

Freedom + Responsibility = long life in your promised land
In the wilderness everything is free (free water, food, protection, security, provision). "The manna stopped the day after[d] they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan." Joshua 5.12

People with low self-esteem, fearful prefer to live in slavery because in slavery there is no responsibility. "In Freedom you are your own master and therefore must embrace responsibility. Freedom imposes responsibility. Sin results in the abuse of freedom. A slave mindset will destroy your Kingdom "Domain" - Dr Myles Munroe

2. **The wilderness is a process every Christian must go through - Encouragement through wilderness process:**

a. **Believe in the Journey:**

Joshua 1.9 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. **7** "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

b. **Freedom Process - Circumcision before Israel entered the promised land** –

Israel had broken covenant throughout their time in the wilderness -**9**And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their

generations. 10This *is* My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; 11and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a **sign of the covenant** between Me and you. 13He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant:

SIGN = לְאוֹת (lə·'ō·wt)sign, sign, a distinguishing mark , banner, remembrance , miraculous sign, token, ensign, standard, miracle, proof.
COVENANT = בְּרִית (bə·rîṯ) alliance, pledge between men, treaty, alliance, constitution, ordinance, agreement, alliance (of friendship) between God and man, covenant (divine ordinance with signs or pledges), covenant making, covenant keeping https://biblehub.com/strongs/genesis/17-11.htm

Joshua 5.4-9 (Israel led by Joshua are requested to circumcise all the people born in the wilderness)

4 Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—
died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. 5 All the people that came out had been
circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had
not. 6 The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were
of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For
the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their
ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 So he raised up their sons in their
place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they
had not been circumcised on the way. 8 And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they
remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So
the place has been called Gilgal[c] to this day.

New Testament – Circumcision Colossians 2.11 "In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ." .

Romans 2.28-29 - A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Philippians 3.3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

c. Disobedience is costly - Lessons learnt from Israel Nation mistakes/disobedience

Covetousness cost Israel defeat at the hands of Ai -
Joshua warned the team – Joshua 6.15-19
15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! 17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted[a] to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she

hid the spies we sent. [18] But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. [19] All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

[10] The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? [11] Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. [12] That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

The price of Achan's greed – " So about three thousand went up; but they were put to flight by the men of Ai, [5] who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water."

d. Bad Company corrupts good (Influence)
Joshua's Farewell to the Leaders – Encouragement and guidance in the promised land

23 After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man, [2] summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials—and said to them: "I am very old. [3] You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you. [4] Remember how I have allotted as an inheritance for your tribes all the land of the nations that remain—the nations I conquered—between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. [5] The LORD your God himself will push them out for your sake. He will drive them out before you, and you will take possession of their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

[6] "Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. [7] Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. [8] But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now.

[9] "The LORD has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you. [10] One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised. [11] So be very careful to love the LORD your God.

[12] "But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, [13] then you may be sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the LORD your God has given you.

Tribes of Israel disobedience
Judges 1.27 – Manasseh / Ephraim / Asher / Napthali (disobey instructions)

[27] But Manasseh did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor or Ibleam or Megiddo and their surrounding settlements, for the Canaanites were determined to live in that land. [28] When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but never

drove them out completely. [29] Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites living in Gezer, but the Canaanites continued to live there among them. [30] Neither did Zebulun drive out the Canaanites living in Kitron or Nahalol, so these Canaanites lived among them, but Zebulun did subject them to forced labor. [31] Nor did Asher drive out those living in Akko or Sidon or Ahlab or Akzib or Helbah or Aphek or Rehob. [32] The Asherites lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land because they did not drive them out. [33] Neither did Naphtali drive out those living in Beth Shemesh or Beth Anath; but the Naphtalites too lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land, and those living in Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath became forced laborers for them. [34] The Amorites confined the Danites to the hill country, not allowing them to come down into the plain. [35] And the Amorites were determined also to hold out in Mount Heres, Aijalon and Shaalbim, but when the power of the tribes of Joseph increased, they too were pressed into forced labor.

Israel's Disobedience – Judges 2

2 The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, [2] and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? [3] And I have also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.'"

[4] When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, [5] and they called that place Bokim.[a] There they offered sacrifices to the LORD.

e. Absence of righteous leaders impacts the next generation

[10] After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. [11] Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. [12] They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the LORD's anger [13] because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. [14] In his anger against Israel the LORD gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. [15] Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

[16] Then the LORD raised up judges,[c] who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. [17] Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the LORD's commands. [18] Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. [19] But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

[20] Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, [21] I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. [22] I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did." [23] The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua

f. Kings lose their domain in disobedience to God – "Obedience is better than sacrifice"

15 Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD. **2** This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. **3** Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy[a] all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'"

4 So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand from Judah. **5** Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine. **6** Then he said to the Kenites, "Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

7 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. **8** He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. **9** But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves[b] and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: **11** "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal."

13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions."

14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

15 Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

16 "Enough!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night."

"Tell me," Saul replied.

17 Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. **18** And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.' **19** Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. **21** The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

22 But Samuel replied:

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the LORD?
To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
he has rejected you as king."

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. 25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."

3. **Motivation to become 'Responsible'**

Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"

Jeremiah 29:11 –"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

GOSPEL4GRAMPIAN LISTENERS God Says!

GOD: "I will show you the way."

GOD: "I will give you a roadmap."

GOD: "I will teach you which direction to head."

GOD: "I am the way. Jesus knows the way; he is your way."

God: "I will send you another comforter the Holy Spirit, who LEAD YOU INTO ALL TRUTH AND RIGTHEOUSNESS"

4. **Guidance to live a life of Obedience out of reverential respect and love for God:**

Repent. (God is merciful and wants all to be saved)

2 Peter 3:9 " The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Give thanks. (An attitude of humility)

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Do good. (Heart for people is the greatest act of serving God, when we do good we reveal God's love to people and it humbles us)

1 Peter 2:15 "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men"