Fathers & Daughters in the Biblical Tradition



Session 7wo: Worthy of an Inheritance

Numbers 27: 1-11

1. Talkback with Pastor Tim - Societal changes, even changes grounded in religious practice, are often appropriate... yet hard-fought and time-consuming. Can you imagine any pushback from "...the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation" (v. 2) in this legal challenge from the daughters of Zelophehad? In today's context, describe the influence of secular cultural shifts on the Church's consideration of change. Discuss the role of scripture, tradition, and experience in discerning which changes are good and which are not.

2. Father's Day - Review Joshua 15:13-19 (also Judges 1:12-15) for another biblical tale of a daughter requesting from her father - and receiving - a parcel of land. Identify women from history or personal experience who are worthy drivers of the business/economic community.

3. Go Deeper - Read Numbers 36:5-12 to learn how Moses amended the original ruling granting an inheritance to the daughters of Zelophehad. Notice the importance of "family lands" in Jewish antiquity; does that tradition have any parallel in your own family life? How do you feel about Moses' command that the five daughters must now get married? How do you feel about women marrying their cousins, generally?