

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

SERMON SERIES

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I'M AN HEIR

ROMANS 8: 10 - 14 (NKJV)
SEPTEMBER 26 - 27, 2020

A SERMON BY
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#IMANHEIR #MORETHANCONQUERORS

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Preacher: Pastor Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: I'm An Heir

Scripture: Romans 8:12-17 (NRSV)



CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

In the third installment of the Romans 8 series, "More Than Conquerors," Pastor Wesley begins with the historical context on the practice of adoption in Roman culture. By contrasting Roman traditions—driven by high mortality rates and laws of inheritance that prohibited women from acquiring their father's possessions—with Paul's theological argument on the salvific power of Jesus' sacrifice, Pastor establishes that:

1. Because God is eternal and already has an heir in Jesus Christ, God's offer for salvation (adoption) is an act of grace.
2. God has paid an extraordinary price for our adoption through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
3. Salvation is not us choosing God, but our acceptance that God has already chosen us.

By accepting God's gift of salvation, we become a part of God's family. As a result, we find that our relationship with God becomes more personal, we gain brothers and sisters who have also accepted the gift of salvation, and we share in the suffering and glory of Jesus.

Key Points:

In our adoption (acceptance of salvation) we:

1. Have entered into a new relationship with God
2. Have entered into a new relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ
3. We are joint heirs with Jesus

Notes for Facilitators:

Thank you for your work in getting this season off to a great start! We're still getting registrations, so many of you will hear from us as we introduce new Villagers to your group. We encourage you to be intentional about making these new Villagers feel welcomed and included.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. It is officially Fall! What is one of your favorite things about the Fall season?
2. In this week's sermon, we learn another name for God, "Abba" an Aramaic term of familial intimacy. What names do you commonly use when referring to God?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. Philippians 3:10 (NRSV) says, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death." While we do not always know why we have suffered, we do know that we will experience suffering. What have you come to know about God in moments of suffering?
2. In this sermon, we are reminded that salvation has brought us into a *new* relationship with God. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NRSV) says, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" What "new" things have you seen in yourself as a result of your relationship with God? What "old things" have not yet passed away?
3. In saving us and adopting us, God did for us what he did not have to do. Since we know that salvation is an act of grace, how does it now shape your understanding of Ephesians 2:8-9 (NRSV) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast"?

Life Application Questions:

1. As wildfires rage, the death toll from Coronavirus rises, the movement for Black Lives endures on, and the Presidential election stokes the flames on all of it, what do you want to see "after this?" What do you believe God desires for us when the dust settles? What should God's people be praying for in this moment?
2. Being an heir is not just about what you will receive, being an heir is about our responsibility to continue God's legacy on earth. Thinking about your own gifts and calling, how do you believe you carry on God's life and legacy? What do you hope people learn about your heavenly father when they meet you?
3. There is so much hope in the idea that glory is the redemption of suffering. While some of us have discovered that redemption, there are some of us who are still wondering what glory has come from our suffering? What experiences are you still struggling to understand, and what support or resources could you benefit from as you work through it?
4. Pastor Wesley argues that in our adoption by God, although we enter into a new relationship with God, God has always been in relationship with us. What are some times in your life that you were able to identify God's presence even if you hadn't fully committed to a relationship with God?
5. The name "Abba" symbolizes a familiarity and closeness with God, that is different from the more formal names of God, such as El Shaddai or Jehovah. How does the knowledge that God, the sovereign creator of the heavens and earth, is "Abba" shape your approach with God? In what ways can you develop your intimacy with God?



"Can I Push It?"

Throughout the sermon, Pastor Wesley pointed out that women were not considered "heirs" and only males could be heirs in Roman society. In the wake of the Grand Jury decision on Breonna Taylor, where no officer was charged with her murder, how have we left women, particularly black women, out in our own modern society? What responsibility must we take for the ways we treat women knowing God has made women heirs as well, and how can this mindset become part of our daily walk?

Activity:

1. **Show and Tell:** In breakout rooms, pair up for 8-10 minutes to respond to the following prompt. Pastor Wesley reminded us that if we are heirs, it means that we are inheriting something. Tell us about something you have inherited or a gift that is meaningful to you. If you have it nearby, grab it. What about this gift represents the love the giver had for you? Are there any similarities you can draw to God?



2. Sibling Rivalry: (Get to Know You Game) This sermon encouraged us to think about our *new* relationship with one another as siblings. Sometimes siblings have (loving) rivalries. Let's play a game of "This or That." For our game, we'll have two siblings Duke and Alfred. As you see your rival choices, choose a side!

Note: Facilitators may say choices out loud, put them on a slide and share your screen, or add them to the chat. You can also remix choices or just use a few, but here is a list to pull from.

- 7:30 service or 11:30 service
- Thanksgiving or Christmas
- Cold weather or Warm Weather
- Online or In-Person
- Phone Call or Text Message
- Bible App or Physical Bible
- Football or Basketball
- Pets or No Pets
- Pepsi or Coca-Cola
- Absentee or Vote in-Person
- Grits with Sugar or Grits with Cheese
- Online Shopping or In-Person Shopping
- Sanctuary or Balcony
- Cook or Eat Out

Spirit Work:

Matthew 11:28 (NRSV) says "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Pastor Wesley began the sermon describing the unrelenting suffering we have endured this year. Amidst all of that, Matthew reminds us that God offers us rest. Resist a need to overwork, hustle, or overcommit, and receive God's rest this week. You can set a bedtime for 8 hours of sleep, or pick a day to take a nap, or turn down an engagement that will overextend you, or anything else, but choose rest this week.

Readings for This Week:

Monday, September 28th	Galatians 3:23-29
Tuesday, September 29th	2 Corinthians 4:7-18
Wednesday, September 30th	Genesis 15:1-6
Thursday, October 1st	Titus 3:1-8
Friday, October 2nd	1 Peter 1:3-7

Further Study:

Learn more about the Roman Empire to gain a greater understanding of the society in which Jesus and Paul lived: <https://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/life.html>