

**Month:** September

**Scripture:** 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

**Food for Thought:** God never consults your past to determine your future

1 Chron 4:9-10 says "Jabez was more honourable than his brethren and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. and Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

What I love about this scripture is it addresses the person that Jabez was. Not what he had! It doesn't say he was richer, wealthier, stronger or even more educated. What the scripture does say is Jabeze was more Honorable. Not disposed to cheat or defraud, not deceptive or fraudulent, showing character of honour and integrity, adhering to ethical and moral principles, deserving of esteem and respect. This means that Jabez was of a higher character, of more excellent attitude and heart. He was more trust worthy, more dependable. He had proven himself and earned the respect of his peers.

**beloved, the most important things in life are not material and external, they are spiritual and they are internal, (they are matters of the heart)**

My friends when it comes to your heart YOU are in charge. You decide whether your heart rides high on the mountain or wallows in the valley. You decide whether you're going to live in the lowlands of mediocrity or ride the high places of honour, integrity, excellence. No matter what happens to you, YOU are in charge of what happens in YOU!

i am reminded of Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, he was king Sauls grandson, (he was of royal blood and lineage) but when he was a very young child his nurse dropped him and he became a cripple (lame on his feet) but he was not only crippled physically, he also became an emotional cripple. He chose to let his physical condition define him.

All of us have had bad things happen to us in life, we have all been dropped in someway in this life. You may have been abused physically, lied on, betrayed, maybe you have had your dreams smashed over and over again, maybe you have invested in relationships that let you down time after time, maybe you lost your job, or your home. I want to encourage you today. You can rise above your circumstances!! yes you can get out. You don't have to let the circumstances of life hold you in captivity. You can break out and break through. It doesn't matter what side of the tracks you come from. it doesn't matter what colour your skin is, It doesn't matter how educated you are, It doesn't matter what people think about you, It doesn't matter how much money you have, It doesn't matter how small your beginnings are, It doesn't matter how old or young you are.

**What matters is: What do you believe about yourself ?What do you say about yourself ?How do you see yourself ?**

You have to see yourself where you want to be. You have to see yourself like God sees you. Jabez saw himself worthy & deserving of more in life! He broke out of every preconceived idea and limitation that was placed on his life and he broke into a large life (The abundant life)He called on the God of Israel saying " Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed and enlarge my coast and that thy hand might be with me and that thou wouldest keep me from evil that it might not grieve me" and God granted him that which he requested.

i know God wants to bless you. God wants to prosper you. Jabez broke into a large life because he believed he could, and he refused to be satisfied where he was at. Jabez's life is proof that your past doesn't matter....God never consults your past to determine your future. What happened in your life B.C. (before Christ)doesn't matter, and even as

a Christian if you have fallen, if you have sinned (forsake it, ask forgiveness) the blood of Jesus will erase it from your life. Quit living in the past (past failures, past disappointments, past hurts, past wounds,)Put the past in the past and move on to the greatness that God has ordained for your life. See you at the top!

Love

*Pastor Mercy*