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THE REPROACH IS ROLLED AWAY

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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THE REPROACH IS ROLLED AWAY!

I. Joshua: Chapter 1 – Time To Possess The Land!

A. Occupy

1. Walking and living in victory
2. Kingdom living – righteousness, peace, and joy

B. **Possess** – To dispossess; to occupy by driving out the previous tenants.

II. **Spiritual Warfare**

A. Introduction in Living Bible – Possessing was not automatic. God required of them that they **actively** engage in warfare in order to gain what He had given them.

1. Active is opposite of passive.

B. Joshua 5:9 – Today the reproach is rolled away.

Definitions:

1. Reproach (Webster's) – Shame, blame, and disgrace (relatives of guilt and condemnation).
2. Shame (Hebrew) – Confounded.
3. Shame – Confused, dry, disappointed, or stopped.

4. Confounded (Webster's) – Ashamed, confused, defeated; overthrown; to damn.
 5. Damn (Webster's) – Inflict loss upon; pronounce adverse judgment; bring about failure or ruin; doomed to punishment.
- C. Blame comes from blasphemy.
Blasphemy means to be irreverent toward; to have a bad attitude toward.
1. **It causes a false sense of responsibility.**
 2. Examples of false responsibility:
 - a. If around anyone angry, I assumed that I must have done something wrong.
 - b. I became co-dependent. It was always my job to fix them!
 - c. Fix my grown children
 - d. Failing ministries
 - e. Speaking engagements
 3. It often happened when something important was happening in my own ministry – **it was sent as a DISTRACTION** to cloud my focus.
 4. It blocks proper responsibility and accountability.
- D. **Revelation 12:10** – Power and authority come when the accuser of the brethren is cast out.
- E. **The dreams of today have no place for the reproaches of the past.**
- F. Reproach prevents you from hearing from God.
1. **James 1:5** – God answers you without reproach and faultfinding.

III. The Glorious Church

A. Glorious – Manifestation of excellence.

1. Love is the most excellent thing.
2. Can't give love until you receive it from God and properly love yourself.

B. Can't give away something you don't have.

1. Respect – Respect self first.
2. Kindness and gentleness – I was harsh and hard on myself, so I was with others.

I received nothing from God unless I earned it (deserved it). Mercy can't be deserved.

3. Be good to yourself in order to be good to others.

If you deprive yourself and are good to others, you will be a martyr.

4. Harsh, judgmental self-talk results in doing the same to others.

IV. To Possess Means To Be Free.

A. When are we free?

1. When we raise our hands and dance in church?
2. When we become so sharp at confessing the Word that we don't face truth or deal with reality?

Example: A girl was coughing in the restroom. I tried to be nice and concerned; her reply was very sharp and rude.

- B. Freedom is facing where you are and knowing where you are going.
 - 1. Facing where you are without reproach and without shame.
- C. We are free; and we are possessing when we are COMFORTABLE with God, others, and ourselves.
 - 1. We are free when we don't have to impress others.
- D. We are free when we don't have to be jealous of others.
- E. We are free when our worth and our works are not connected.

V. We Have This Ministry.

- A. **II Corinthians 4:1**
- B. **II Corinthians: Chapter 3** – The ministry of liberty
 - 1. Ministers life
 - 2. Legal code ministers death.
- C. Legal = Religion
Liberty = Relationship

RELIGION IS MAN'S IDEA OF GOD'S EXPECTATIONS.

- D. Legalism brings fear.
 - 1. **Romans 8:15** – We have not received the Spirit to bring us again into slavery to the bondage of fear, but we have received “**the Spirit of adoption.**”
 - a. **Ephesians 1:4-5** – Adopted
 - b. **Ephesians 3:9-12** – Unreserved approach

