**Painting by Linda Lockhart**

**Possession, Perception, and Procession**

1. **Scripture Lesson**

Numbers 32:1-18 (ESV)

**1**Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock. **2**So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation, **3**“Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, **4**the land that the Lord struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.” **5**And they said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan.” **6**But Moses said to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben, “Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here? **7**Why will you discourage the heart of the people of Israel from going over into the land that the Lord has given them? **8**Your fathers did this, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land. **9**For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the people of Israel from going into the land that the Lord had given them. **10**And the Lord’s anger was kindled on that day, and he swore, saying, **11**‘Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, because they have not wholly followed me, **12**none except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord.’ **13**And the Lord’s anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was gone. **14**And behold, you have risen in your fathers’ place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the Lord against Israel! **15**For if you turn away from following him, he will again abandon them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all this people.” **16**Then they came near to him and said, “We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, **17**but we will take up arms, ready to go before the people of Israel, until we have brought them to their place. And our little ones shall live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. **18**We will not return to our homes until each of the people of Israel has gained his inheritance.

1. **Introduction**

“Interest in Beethoven’s hearing loss has long captivated his fans, many of whom are fascinated by the tragic circumstances of a deaf composer and the ways Beethoven managed to keep working even after he completely lost his hearing by the time he was 45.”

- Lily Rothman, *Time Magazine*

1. **Big Idea**

In life’s decisions, if perceptions and possessions override faith and promise then I endanger myself and my community.

* Perceptions and Possessions
* Deviation and Discipline
* Motivation for Mission

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1. **Perceptions and Possessions**

Ephesians 4:1

I urge you to live a life worthy of the **calling** you have received.

Acts 1:8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**…

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1. **Deviation and Discipline**

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1. **Paradigm and Motivation**

“Great leaders know their mission and are unalterably committed to achieving it.”

- H. Reeder, *The Leadership Dynamic*

“He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."

- epitaph for George Washington Carver

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1. **Conclusion**