

THE TROUBLE WITH COMMON SENSE

Joshua 9

This passage gives us some key ways to make wise decisions.

Principle: Not every “Open Door” has God’s Name on the handle!

#1: KEEP ASKING THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS UNTIL YOU GET AN ADEQUATE ANSWER.

The men of Israel said to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live near us. How then can we make a treaty with you?” Joshua 9:7 (New International Version)

#2: REALIZE THAT COMPLIMENTS DON’T MAKE YOU MORE COMPETENT.

“We are your servants,” they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?”⁹They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. . . .” Joshua 9:8-9 (NIV)

Just because someone tells you that you are wise doesn’t mean you’re about to make a good decision.

#3: KNOW THAT GOD’S NAME BEING INVOKED IS NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS.

“Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. . . .” Joshua 9:9 (NIV)

Just because someone is talking ABOUT God does not mean they are talking TO God.

Hearing the name of God does not excuse us from seeking God.

#4: DON’T RELY ON SELF TO MAKE DECISIONS.

And when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show no mercy. Deuteronomy 7:2 (NIV)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25 (NIV)

#5: UNDERSTAND THAT A GOOD OFFER IS NOT THE SAME AS A GOD OFFER.

Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath. Joshua 9:15 (NIV)

#6: ALWAYS TALK WITH GOD ABOUT IT.

The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. Joshua 9:14 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. James 1:5-6 (NIV)

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 1 Corinthians 2:12 (NIV)

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13a (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

First Scripture passage -

Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things – those in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Great Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittite, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizites, Hivites and Jebusites) –² they came together to make war against Joshua and Israel.

³However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. ⁵The men put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. ⁶Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”

⁷The men of Israel said to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live near us. How then can we make a treaty with you?”

⁸“We are your servants,” they said to Joshua.

But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?”

⁹They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the LORD your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan – Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth. ¹¹And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, ‘Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; make a treaty with

us.’”¹²This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is. ¹³And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.

¹⁴The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. ¹⁵Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

¹⁶Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them. ¹⁷So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim. ¹⁸But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel.

The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, ¹⁹but all the leaders answered, “We have given them our oath by the LORD, the God of Israel, and we can not touch them now. ²⁰This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them.”

²¹They continued, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community.” So the leaders’ promise to them was kept.

Joshua 9:1-21 (New International Version)