

Always Seek the Lord's Counsel

Context Joshua 9:1-27

“Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD. So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.” (Joshua 9:14-15 NKJV)

The inhabitants of Gibeon had heard about Israel and their mission to take over the land and kill all the inhabitants. Fear had consumed them, and a plan was formulated to trick the Israelites into making a covenant with them.

They made themselves look like they had been on a long journey. They took old dry bread for provisions, and wore old clothes. Then they approached the Israelites with the lie that they were from a far country.

Then we read the words, “But they did not ask counsel of the Lord.” Why would they be so foolish? They even suspected this might have been a ruse. Notice the following, “Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, ‘Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?’” (Joshua 9:7 NKJV)

This example gives us three reasons why we should always seek the Lord's counsel.

First, overconfidence is a weakness common among men. Give us a little victory and we think we can do anything. It is dangerous to assume because current events are going your way, they do so because of your oversight. God is sovereign in the affairs of men, and He turns the king's heart whatever way He wishes (Pr. 21:1).

Second, the strongest deceptions appear harmless. Here was a band of raggedy men, fatigued by their long journey. What harm could they do to the mighty Israelites? After all God wants His people to love.

Third, human wisdom cannot discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. No matter how clever a person might be, he cannot know what is in the heart of another. The Scriptures are clear on this. “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him . . . ?” (1 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV)

Therefore, it is perilous for us to make decisions without first consulting the Lord. Let us learn from others not to make the mistake of running ahead of the Lord. Don't allow the hurried pace of life to force you to move too quickly. Wait upon the Lord. He is not worried about other people's deadlines. He sets the deadlines. Get peace through prayer before you regret what you believed to be a harmless choice. Always consult the Lord.