

# AND ASKED NOT COUNSEL OF THE LORD JOSHUA 9, 10

Text: Joshua 9:14

## **Joshua 9:14**

<sup>14</sup> And the men took of their victuals, and asked not *counsel* at the mouth of the LORD.

Introduction:

People respond differently to the Word of God. Some are cut to the heart and respond rightly, while others seem to disregard the truth and respond wrongly.

It's interesting to note how Christians respond to the instruction that we are to walk by faith and not by sight.

Some there is an immediate acceptance and an eagerness to apply this truth to their lives. Others are reluctant to take the risk of faith. Still others even scoff at the idea.

It's worth noting the dangers that await those who fail to act in concert with the revealed will of God.

After the death of Moses, Joshua was given the responsibility of leading the children of Israel into Canaan and subduing and securing the land and their enemies.

God had strictly commanded that they make no alliances with the inhabitants of Canaan.

After the fall of Jericho, various kings in Canaan determined to band together to try to defeat the children of Israel. However the men of Gibeon refused to join in the Canaanites alliance.

Seeing that the power of God was with the children of Israel, and also knowing that the children of Israel refused to make any treaties with any tribe in Canaan, the Gibeonites devised a subtle plan to draw the Hebrews into an alliance with them, they pretended to be citizens of a country far outside Canaan.

Joshua and his captains were convinced by what they saw and heard.

The Bible states:

**Joshua 9:14**

<sup>14</sup> And the men took of their victuals, and asked not *counsel* at the mouth of the LORD.

Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them and let them live.

This was one of the most costly mistakes in the history of Israel – all because they did not ask counsel of the Lord.

Notice:

## 1. THE DECEPTION (JOSHUA 9:9-11)

### Joshua 9:9-11

<sup>9</sup> And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, <sup>10</sup> And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which *was* at Ashtaroth. <sup>11</sup> Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We *are* your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us.

A. They were fooled by the words of others

These words sounded:

1. Spiritual
2. Flattering
3. Humble

Many unsuspecting Christians have been talked into unholy alliances because the word of others was their highest counsel.

## B. They were fooled by the visual evidence

For many people, including Christians, “seeing is believing.”

Illustration: Eve

### **Genesis 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? <sup>2</sup>And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup>But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>4</sup>And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup>For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. <sup>6</sup>And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

## A. The visible is not a replacement of God’s Word

Often when decisions are based on the visible it results in disaster.

## **2. THE DISCERNMENT (JOSHUA 9:7)**

### **Joshua 9:7**

<sup>7</sup> And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you?

God often makes us sensitive to fact that we are entering a situation in which we need his counsel.

However if we are determined to handle things on our own we will ignore that leading.

The comments of the men of Israel reveal that they're reservation concerning the trustworthiness of these men.

The Bible instructs us in Proverbs:

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Through prayer and the study of God's Word we can seek the mind of God.

## **3. THE DAMAGE (JOSHUA 10:1-6)**

If we continue to refuse to seek the counsel from God we will eventually make a costly or damaging commitment to the world.

Not long after Israel had made an alliance with the Gibeonites, several of the kings of Canaan, fearful of the power of the Israelites, determined to attack them at what was now their weakest point, the city of Gibeon.

At the height of the battle, the Gibeonites sent a messenger to Joshua, camped at Gilgal:

**Joshua 10:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, when Adonizedek king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it; as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them; <sup>2</sup> That they feared greatly, because Gibeon *was* a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it *was* greater than Ai, and all the men thereof *were* mighty. <sup>3</sup> Wherefore Adonizedek king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying, <sup>4</sup> Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it. <sup>6</sup> And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.

Notice the cost or damages of this commitment that Joshua made with Gibeon:

## A. They gave Satan a point of attack

The compromise with the Gibeonites put them in danger.

Because Gibeon was such a vulnerable city, the attention of the enemy naturally went to it.

In the same way, the Christian who ignores the counsel of God when making important decisions makes himself vulnerable to Satan's attacks.

## B. Such commitments will beg for our attention

Joshua was assembling his troops and planning strategy at Gilgal when the message came: "Come up to us quickly, and save us and help us."

This wasn't what Joshua needed to be doing, but because of the commitment made to the Gibeonites, Joshua and the children of Israel had to keep their word.

Commitments made to the world will require follow-up that make demands on our time and on our hearts.

## C. Commitments to the world deplete your resources

Joshua's men routed the army of the Amorites, but to do so they had to use an enormous amount of energy and time.

Commitments to the world always exhaust our assets – physically, spiritually, emotionally, and financially.

Close:

Have you believed the foolish words of others rather than the trustworthy Word of God?

Have you been diverted by the visible from God's path for your life?

What commitment have you made with the world that has exposed you to Satan's attacks?

That's why it's important for us to seek and heed God's counsel.