



Courage to Ask For Directions

(Joshua 9:1-27)

Main Idea: Consult with God about all of life's issues.

Connect: Pinky promises? Blood Brothers? Secret handshake? What was your favorite way to "guarantee a deal" when you were a kid?

Discuss

1. What insight, observation, or principal from this sermon did you find to be most helpful, insightful or troubling? Explain ...
2. The Israelite's reputation grows among those living in the Promised Land. The inhabitants prepare for the Israelites arrival. (v 1-9)
 - Many of the leaders in the land organize in an attempt to beat the Israelites. The Hivites resort to deception in an attempt to save their people. They trick the Israelites into making an oath and becoming allies with them. The Israelites are deceived because they did not consult the Lord. In what area of your life are you open to deception?
 - The Israelites consult with each other about this decision, but not with God. How do you go about seeking advice in making a decision?
3. The Hivites lie to the Israelites and make a peace treaty with them in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel (v 9-14)
 - Despite receiving direct instruction from God not to make oaths with the people of the land, the Israelites make a treaty. The leaders of Israel relied on their human perception and underestimated the situation. Their weak spiritual practices left them open to deception / attack. How strong are your spiritual practices? How can you formalize your spiritual practices in order to protect your walk with God?
4. The Israelites must live with the consequences of their decision. (v 15-20)
 - The Israelites find out the Hivites have deceived them. They honor their treaty because of their fear and respect for the Lord. The Israelites got themselves into a situation where they had to face embarrassing consequences. We often create situations for ourselves that are not ideal. Tell a time when you had to face a consequence due to a poor decision you made. What was the outcome and did the situation get resolved?
 - This section of scripture does not contain instruction from God on how to remedy the mistake that Joshua and the Israelite leaders had made. Why do you think God chose not to provide them with direction?
5. Joshua confronts the Hivites about their deception and appoints them as woodcutters and water carriers for the community of Israel. (v 21-27)
 - Joshua and the Israelite leaders have accepted their enemy as their ally, making them a part of their community. How would this course of action have impacted the Israelites later? What impact would the Israelites have had on the Hivites?
 - How is the way you live making an impact for the people around you?

Live it Out

- Always ask God before making decisions. Small decisions or large decisions, all decisions have consequences.
- If you don't have a plan to spend time with God, please make one. He may be waiting to help you fix a mess you're making by seeking advice from people instead of from Him.