

Joshua

Part 8 – No Counsel is Bad Counsel

Joshua 9

Tow Truck in San Antonio – didn't seek advice, didn't take it once it was given

No Counsel from God means...

You will end up deceived (9.3-15)

- Their cunning led to a bad covenant
 - Playing ball on someone else's terms ends poorly (Sam – pickleball, had to learn to play by Father's rules – even when he didn't understand why, still had to)
- Their deceit was shrewd
 - Few temptations and fewer lies will come at you head on – most come with portions of the truth attached so they sound both plausible and preferable
 - Uniqueness of Jesus – is He really the only way? (John 14.6)
 - Gospel – does it mean my life gets better? No, it means your life is over and you get a new one (Galatians 2.20)
 - Sexuality – so many questions that cannot be answered in this kind of setting, but the one question that can be should be: faithfulness and fulfillment in marriage, celibacy otherwise (1 Cor. 6.18-20)
 - Race – emotions running so high right now BUT we have to think clearly and like a Christian (Galatians 3.28)
 - Most people we see in heaven will not be white (and Jesus wasn't either) – beauty of diversity
 - Every person is equal at the foot of the cross and that's the only way to judge them

Maybe some are struggling with these things, some are not – but we have to be clear about them

- It's not so much that many would disagree in here – it's that when the news hits, we turn to a lot of other sources first: friends, Facebook, emotions...but NOT GOD
- No counsel is bad counsel

You will not identify your Enemy (9.15-21)

- Their enemy was in their midst and they didn't know it
 - Disguised, three days, living among them
 - It caused distrust and division among God's people (v.18)
 - It justified their disobedience (v.19)

- They may have done the right thing in the end, but they didn't do the right thing at first
- We have an Enemy too
 - It's not those different from us
 - It's not those grieving losses we don't grieve (Psalm 34.18)
 - It's not those we think got what they deserved
 - It's not anyone with skin (no matter the color) – Eph. 6.12
 - It's the Devil, the Great Dragon, Satan, the roaring lion, the thief and the liar

Things to remember to do:

1. Pray before you post
2. Open God's Word and go do it
3. Labor to see each person in light of the cross (created, redeemed, glorious)
4. Mourn the Tragedy. Mourn the sin too.

Questions for Discussion

1. When is a time you didn't seek counsel (or ignored it)? What happened?
2. Review the 4 areas in which deception can creep into our church and the scriptures accompanying them. Which do you see most (and where do you see it)? Which do you consider most dangerous? What would you add to the list?
3. In what ways have you seen the Enemy bring division, distrust, and the justification of disobedience in your own life? In the life of a church (including ours)?
4. Read Romans 12.15. How can you apply that to your relationships this week? How can you apply it to our culture?
5. Of the four things to remember to do, what does each one look like? Why should you do these things regularly?