

**Joshua 9**  
**They Did Not Enquire of the Lord**  
**Message 8**

9/10/18

When we read the Old Testament we can fall into the trap of seeing it simply as dusty history that really doesn't apply to our lives today. It seems that humanity hasn't changed much however, and certainly God hasn't changed.

As God continues to lead Joshua and the nation of Israel, they continue to see great victories. It also seems like they quickly get overconfident and forget that it is God who is leading the charge, literally. These people tend to try and run ahead of God and things get out of control quickly. In Joshua chapter 9, it seems that the key verse is verse 14. **"So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD."** Joshua and the people were set up for deception, because they relied on their own understanding, and seemingly took council from each other. However, they didn't get council from the one source who always gives good council, because He is the one source that knows everything.

Looking at it from our perspective it seems painfully obvious what they should have done. When I consider the "foolishness" of their actions, I realize that I am guilty of the same oversight. I guess without thinking about it, I tend to think that there are certain things that I really shouldn't or at least don't need to "bother" the Lord with. It is often those very "simple", mundane, or non-spiritual type decisions that end up getting me in a bind. By following what seemed like a very logical line of reasoning, Joshua and the nation of Israel entered into a binding agreement, that put them into a bind.

In the midst of that trouble, God is gracious and turns what is a mess into a blessing. Because of the covenant made with the Gibeonites, God ends up allowing the Nation of Israel to overcome five powerful kings in one battle. God has a way of allowing our mess ups to be used for His glory, if we allow Him to walk us through the mess. We seldom if ever get to avoid the mess, but God can lead us through the mess, somehow continuing to refine us and those around us in the process of conforming us to His image. **(Romans 8:28-29)**

The application of all of this seems to be that we are more dependent on God than we tend to recognize or admit. "I've got this" seems to be a dangerous phrase spiritually. In Joshua's day, following God meant constantly inquiring of the Lord. He needed new guidance for every new enemy they faced. Trusting their own instincts allowed them to get absolutely deceived. For us, following Christ involves a constant dependence on the Holy Spirit to lead us. There are three great enemies we constantly face in our spiritual journeys, the world, the flesh, and the devil. They are deceptive and we can easily be fooled and misled.

Paul describes wisdom as that which is secret and hidden. **(1 Corinthians 2:7)** He said the same thing in **Romans 11:33**. I take that to mean that it must be sought after. James tells us that if we lack wisdom we are to ask for it. **(James 1:1-5)** He goes on to describe "wisdom from above" in **James 3:13-18**.

The bottom line is that all mankind is desperate for true wisdom and we cannot come by it on our own. We all need wisdom from above. Much of that comes from knowing His Word. Much of it

comes from daily dependence on His Words to us. Let it not be said of us, “They did not inquire of the Lord.”

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. Can you think of some instances when you didn't inquire of the Lord and you ended up headed in a wrong direction? How did you convince yourself, or did you become convinced, that it was the right direction?
2. How can we inquire of the Lord for wisdom or guidance?
3. What does **Proverbs 3:5-6** have to say about finding direction from God?
4. What are some specific areas in your life that you need to know what God wants? Have you met the conditions of **Proverbs 3:5-6**? Have you asked as James said?
5. What is the next step?