

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: Trusting God's Guidance

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we gather to reflect on Your Word, we ask for open hearts and minds. Let Psalm 25:4-5 guide us: "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Read: Joshua 9

Have you ever made a decision that seemed right at the moment but later proved to be a mistake? The story in Joshua 9 is a vivid reminder of the importance of seeking God's guidance in every decision we make.

The Israelites, fresh from their victories in Jericho and Ai, encountered the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites, fearing for their lives, resorted to deception. They dressed in worn-out clothes and carried moldy bread to appear as if they had come from a distant land. Joshua and the leaders of Israel, failing to seek counsel from the Lord, believed their story and made a peace treaty with them.

A noteworthy Hebrew word in this passage is "darash" (דָּרַשׁ), which means to seek, inquire, or consult. Joshua 9:14 says, "So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the Lord." This lack of seeking ("darash") God's guidance led to a hasty and misguided decision.

This narrative teaches us the importance of discernment and reliance on God. It wasn't the external appearance of the Gibeonites that should have guided Israel's decision but rather a consultation with God. When we face decisions, especially those that seem straightforward or insignificant, it's easy to rely on our judgment. However, God invites us to seek His wisdom in everything.

Practical application from this story is to make it a habit to seek God's guidance in our daily lives. Whether it's a major life decision or a routine choice, inviting God into the process helps us align our actions with His will. Prayer, reading Scripture, and seeking wise counsel are practical ways to involve God in our decisions.

Conclusion:

The account of the Gibeonites serves as a powerful reminder to always seek God's guidance. By making a habit of consulting Him, we can avoid unnecessary mistakes and walk more confidently in His will.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

1. Why is it important to seek God's guidance in school and friendships?
2. How can you develop a habit of consulting God in your daily decisions?
3. What are some ways you can discern God's will in your life?

For Parents:

1. How can you teach your children the importance of seeking God's guidance?
2. What are some family practices you can implement to ensure you are making God-centered decisions?
3. How can you support each other in discerning God's will for your family?

For Professionals:

1. How does seeking God's guidance impact your professional life?
2. What are some challenges you face in consulting God in your career decisions?
3. How can you integrate prayer and Bible study into your daily routine to seek God's will?

This week, make it a point to pause and pray before making any decision, big or small. Reflect on Joshua 9 and let it remind you of the importance of seeking God's counsel in every aspect of your life.