

Sermon Title:

“The Trouble with Common Sense” ~ Joshua 9

INTRODUCTION:

Key Verse: “The men of Israel sampled their provisions but **did not inquire of the LORD.**”

I. Why We (Godly Leaders) Fail? Vs. 1-15

A. Sometimes we do not pray because we're too trusting. Vs. 3-6

1. The Gibeonites acted shrewdly.
2. The Gibeonites spoke shrewdly.

Deut. 20:10-15 permitted Israel to make treaties with distant peoples

B. Sometimes we do not pray because we think all we need to do is ask the right questions vs. 7, 9

1. “Maybe you are living within our land.”
2. “Who are you?”
3. “Where do you come from?”

C. Sometimes we do not pray because we are too comfortable. Vs. 9-11

1. “We are your servants.”
2. “We heard the report of the Lord.”

D. Sometimes we do not pray because we think we already know what to do. Vs. 12-15

1. Common sense dictated that it was ok to make a covenant.

2. They could have done what they did with Achan's sin and use lots to determine God's will. (see 7:16-18; Numbers 27:21)

II. How To Overcome Failure? Vs. 16-27

A. When people around you lie and deceive, keep your word! Vs. 16-21

B. Believe that God can make something good out of your mistakes. Vs. 22-27

1. The good that came out of this mistake for the Gibeonites.
 - a. The Gibeonites became part of the family of God.
 - b. Israel protected Gibeon from their enemies. (Joshua 10)
2. The good that came out of this mistake for Israel.
 - a. They had running water and heat at the temple.
 - b. Gibeon became a city that was central to priesthood. 400 years later David stored the tabernacle of Gibeon.
 - c. One of David's 30 mighty men was a Gibeonite.
 - d. When the people of Israel returned from Babylonian captivity, the lists included the Gibeonites!
 - e. In the days of Nehemiah the Gibeonites are listed as some of those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

CONCLUSION:

1. When should you pray?
 - a. Pray when you are facing problems.
 - b. Pray when you have everything under control.
2. What should you pray?
 - a. Pray about health, job stress, family stress etc.
 - b. Pray for spiritual growth for Christians.
 - c. Pray when you made a mistake that God will make something good out of your mistake!
 - d. Pray for salvation for unchurched.
3. Where should you pray?
 - a. Pray before meals.
 - b. Pray in the car.
 - c. Pray waiting in lines.
 - d. Pray at the bus stop (with your kids).
 - e. Pray at the office.
 - f. Pray at your quiet place.
 - g. Pray before you go to bed or in bed.
4. With whom should you pray?
 - a. Pray alone.
 - b. Pray with your spouse.
 - c. Pray with your kids.
 - d. Pray with the church.