

Before you read this, I would like you to take a minute to pray this prayer;
“God, open my eyes to see how this writing applies to me today”.

Star Light

SL/2023-E1 Like stars, shine through the dark night sky

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It seemed good in our eyes! (2)

In the first part of this write up, we concluded that taking a course of action without seeking God's counsel, running with what just seems good to us has consequences. In the case of Joshua and the leaders of Israel at the time, we saw two immediate consequences; (1) Fighting a needless battle, and (2) Hardship brought by renegeing on the terms of the treaty made without consulting God. We will in this edition look at how these apply to us today.

Consequences of breaking the terms of the treaty:

When Saul in his zeal for the house of God sought to kill the Gibeonites, a severe famine broke out over the entire nation in the days when David was king (2 Samuel 21:1-2). Saul had been long dead, but the consequences still came. This is in spite of the fact the treaty was obtained by deceit. This is why one must do all due diligence and seek the LORD for direction before embarking on any endeavor. A few examples will suffice:

1. The devil may deceive us into accepting ungodly practices as harmless, but just because we accepted them through deceit

will not exempt us from being judged if we renege in keeping with the terms. A father or mother desirous of children is deceived into visiting an old woman to seek for children; he/she is given a bath in the river at 12am, and deceived into covenanting that there will always be one from his/her progeny that serves a particular idol that brought the children. If the children renege on this promise, they'd be punished unless, a superior force is called in to invalidate the covenant. The Gibeonites exacted a treaty through deceit but God still allowed His own chosen people to be punished when the terms of the treaty were broken. It may be through deceit but the devil can still have ground for accusation!

2. If one accepts a business partnership with a company that on the surface everything checks out well, but the company is involved in shady and fraudulent business transactions, without first seeking God's guidance and direction, one may still suffer loss if the law finally catches up with the company. Lot saw a green and fertile land and pitched his tent with the inhabitants of

the city, an evil city. However, the day of judgment came, Lot (though he escaped with his life), lost everything he had labored to acquire through the years; even the wife he had married was lost in the destruction that came upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-29).

3. If one does not seek God regarding the partner one intends to be married to because they see what seems good in their eyes, if one discovers later that what they saw was a deception, God would still count it as adultery if one leaves this partner to marry someone else, *“And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery ...”* (Matthew 19:9 NLT); and God clearly says he hates divorce, *“For I hate divorce”* (Malachi 2:16a NLT).

Fighting Needless Battles:

*'And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; **for she pleaseth me well.**'* (Judges 14:1-3 KJV, emphasis added).

Samson saw a woman and insisted on getting her as a wife without first asking God. It was this same attitude that led him to

Delilah, the woman that sold him to the Philistines for pieces of silver, costing him his eyes and eventually his life. It seems someone is saying, 'but verse four says *“It was the LORD leading him”* (Judges 14:4)'. You are right. It was God who gave him the assignment. But the methodology was to be received as he progressed one bit at a time as needed. Remember Abraham? *“Get thee out of thy country, ... unto a land that I will shew thee”* (Genesis 12:1 KJV). He was given the assignment but the methodology was received along the way. How about Moses, *“Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt”* (Exodus 3:10 KJV). The assignment given, but the methodology was received day by day as Moses progressed. Samson received the assignment, but did not depend on God for the methodology, he therefore ended up a casualty. God could have used Samson in very many different ways to defeat Philistine without he (Samson) losing his eyes had he asked God. Don't just go with what seems good in your eyes; still seek God.

It is desirable to seek God daily as we seek to establish His Kingdom on earth, but how can we hear Him? This will be the subject of our next discussion.



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