

**JOSHUA: READY FOR BATTLE**  
**Joshua 1:10-18**  
**“WHEN WHAT LOOKS GOOD IS NOT GOD’S BEST FOR YOU”**

**INTRODUCTION:** Many people struggle with making decisions based upon “good logic” rather than “good faith.” The result of depending on logic leads to a life lived by “sight” rather than a walk of faith in step with the Holy Spirit. Since the Lord knows the future and what will be best for us for the long haul, does it not make sense to follow Him rather than your logic?

**BACKGROUND:** After years of wandering and later conquering enemies east of the Jordan River (Numbers 31) the children of Israel were standing by the Jordan River preparing to enter the Promised Land. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh had asked permission to settle on the East side of the Jordan rather than cross over. However, they were still obligated to fight with their brothers before they could settle in the area that looked best for them. Their choices would lead to the reality of many uncomfortable consequences in the years to come.

**I. CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES, AND WE RARELY GET TO CHOOSE OUR OWN. HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO SETTLE FOR LESS THAN GOD’S BEST FOR YOU? (NUMBERS 32)**

- A. The tribes that wanted to settle on the east of the Jordan were choosing selfishly and ignoring God’s instructions. What looks good at the moment may not be God’s best for you.
- B. The area these tribes wanted was part of the land God promised Abraham, but it wasn’t for them at that time. There were battles to fight together before anyone could settle there. Our choices always impact others!
- C. There are times when God gives victory simply because we obey, and other times victories come **as** we obey while engaging in battle. *We must listen in every situation.* (Numbers 31:49)

**II. IT TOOK STRONG LEADERSHIP TO GET THE SELFISH TRIBES TO DO WHAT WAS BEST FOR EVERYONE. HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN YOUR SELFISH CHOICES ARE EXPOSED?**

- A. The rationale for staying on the east of the Jordan made good sense, logically. However, since God had given other instructions, it was not the time to settle for anything else. Moses felt their actions would discourage the others, just as the ten spies had done before the wilderness wandering. (Numbers 32:6-15)
- B. Moses was irate when the 2.5 tribes made their request. It sounded like a repeat of the faithless decisions of the previous generation. You should be able to sympathize with his feelings of frustration as a leader watching people stop short of God’s best.
- C. The words of Moses likely convinced the tribes to negotiate and agree to help their brothers fight in exchange for establishing their families in the land. Be aware of the tendency to do the right thing for selfish motives. (Numbers 32:16-19)

D. Moses agreed to their terms, using a phrase that is popular today, which is “be sure your sins will find you out.” In context, not keeping their word to fight would be a sin and bring consequences. Likewise, Jesus reminds us that everything we do will be revealed. (Numbers 32:20-24)

### **III. GOOD LEADERS REMIND US TO KEEP OUR PROMISES, AND WE REMIND ONE ANOTHER TO ALWAYS BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. (Joshua 1:10-18)**

A. Once again, the people were reminded to be prepared in order to see God work in their midst as they would soon cross the Jordan. (Joshua 1:10-11) In similar fashion, we should always be ready to see God work in our lives.

B. Joshua reminded the 2 1/2 tribes of their obligation to fight with their brothers as Israel invaded Canaan. *Do you need to be reminded to help those who have helped you achieve your desires?* (Joshua 1:12-15) (Numbers 31) (Deuteronomy 3:18-20)

C. The tribes that settled their land before crossing the Jordan (sometimes called TransJordan or east Jordanian) promised to obey Joshua as they had Moses, It is interesting to notice how quickly we forget when we were not as obedient and faithful as we claimed to be! (Numbers 25:1-9) They certainly did not always obey Moses! (Joshua 1:16-18)

D. The people reminded Joshua of God’s promises to him, and the command to be strong and courageous. It is quite possible that others sensed Joshua’s struggle to confidently assume leadership with such huge responsibilities. Trust the promises of Scripture that confirm the truth that our Lord is always with us to strengthen us for every task.

**SOME THINGS MAY BE GOOD FOR YOU WHILE OTHERS MAY BE BETTER, BUT THE BEST THINGS ARE THOSE THAT ARE BLESSED BY THE LORD.**

**MAKE SURE YOU NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS THAN WHAT IS BLESSED BY THE LORD, WHO WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU!**

*Dr. Ronald J. Morrison*  
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