

COURAGEOUS CROSSINGS

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSHUA

Sermon Series: Courageous Crossings: Lessons from the Life of Joshua

Scam Likely

Text: Joshua 9:1–27

Date: Sunday, August 24, 2025

Joshua 1:9 – “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Truth for Today:

- Discernment is the best defense against **deception**.
- Rushed decisions bring lasting **regret**.
- God’s grace transforms our blunders into **blessings**.

Bottom Line:

The greatest dangers in life are not always direct attacks but subtle deceptions.

1. Wise **discernment** keeps us from dangerous **deception**. (Joshua 9:1–15)

“The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord.” (v. 14)

Proverbs 14:15, “The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.”

- Discernment doesn’t come from our senses. It comes from **seeking** God.
- You can’t always trust what you **see**, but you can trust the One who **sees** all.

2. Hasty **choices** often lead to **costly** outcomes. (Joshua 9:16–21)

What feels like a quick **win** can eventually become a long-term **weight**.

Proverbs 20:25, “It is a trap to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider one’s vows.”

The three enemies of discernment:

- **Impatience**
- **Pressure**
- **Prayerlessness**

3. God’s grace redeems our **failures** to **fulfill** His purposes. (Joshua 9:22–27)

The hope of the gospel: God restores what sin tried to destroy.

Romans 5:20, “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.”

Some of the greatest testimonies come not from perfect decisions but from redeemed mistakes.

Response:

Where have you been trusting your own senses but not seeking God?

What decisions are you tempted to rush into without prayer?

Where do you need to invite God to redeem a past mistake?

Reflection:

1. Why do you think Israel failed to “inquire of the Lord” in Joshua 9?

2. Recall a time when you made a hasty decision. What did you learn from it?

3. How does this story encourage you about God’s ability to redeem your failures?

