

Choose to Step In

Joshua 10:1-15

Week 8 Uncommon Choices

Choose to Step In

Joshua 10 will show us when to step in to help another.

In Verse 6 the deceivers call for help, and in verses 7-15 God Himself will fight alongside Israel to wipe out the Amorites.

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Joshua 10:1-6

Do you think the Gibeonites are deserving of Israel's help? Does Joshua bear any responsibility for helping them? Is there any relationship established requiring Israel to help?

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The Bystander Effect or why we often will not help another person in trouble.

John Darley and Bibb Latane, sociologists teaching in NYC in the 1960's coined the phrase.

We all think we would choose to step in if we saw another injured, in an accident or being assaulted. But most of us won't.

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Pluralistic Ignorance- we take our cues from onlookers and assume nothing needs doing if no one else is helping. Some use their phones to record it.

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Diffusion of Responsibility- the more people are eyewitnesses, or remain inactive, the less likely one is inclined to step in! 3 factors determine if we get involved: A) do they deserve my help?, B) what competency do I have to help? and C) what is my relationship to the person in need?

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But guess where the power is when it comes to breaking group apathy? The power is with 'one'! Studies show that if even one voice will speak up, step in and help out, others will follow!

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Joshua 10:7-15

Vv7-8 God promised the victory.

V9- Joshua used a blinding surprise attack approaching from the east with the rising sun.

Vv10,11,13- the LORD used supernatural panic, a hailstorm, and a lengthened day to show His power for Israel and against the Amorites.

Not a Bystander

1. Jesus did not stand idly by when we needed help. Not only were we undeserving but ill-deserving- while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

Not a Bystander

2. Jesus taught us to show mercy to those in need -The Good Samaritan (Luke 10) closing with, "Now go and do the same."

Not a Bystander

Joshua defended the Gibeonites. We must step in to love each other because we belong, not to the world, but to the Lord and each other, and our love displays our discipleship to Jesus (John 13:34-35). We must choose to step in to love another. We are ill-deserving, but we are redeemed. Even if the crowd is apathetic and the group is unmoved, you and I must be the 'one' who sparks love like Jesus for each other.