

Jumping to Conclusions



Joshua 22

Setting the context of Joshua 22

- **The Land East of the Jordan Divided**

Deuteronomy 3:18 “Then I commanded you at that time, saying: ‘The Lord your God has given you this land to possess. All you men of valor shall cross over armed before your brethren, the children of Israel.

- **A Prescribed Place of Worship**

Deuteronomy 12:5 “But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.

Setting the context of Joshua 22

- **God's Commission to Joshua**

Joshua 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

- **The Memorial Stones**

Joshua 4:9 Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

Setting the context of Joshua 22

- **The Land Conquered, West of the Jordan**

Joshua 13:7 Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh.”

The tabernacle (alter) set up in Shiloh
Joshua 18:1 Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.

Setting the context of Joshua 22

- **The land is conquered and the eastern tribes sent home to their families and the land they inherited**

Joshua 22:4 And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them; now therefore, return and go to your tents and to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan. 5 But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Joshua 22 (NKJV)

The Eastern Tribes Build an Altar...

10 And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar.

12 And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

Joshua 22 (NKJV)

A delegation sent led by Phinehas son of Eleazar...

15 Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying,

16 “Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord:
‘What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the Lord, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the Lord?’

Joshua 22 (NKJV)

The eastern tribes respond...

26 Therefore we said, ‘Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice,

27 but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the Lord before Him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, “You have no part in the Lord.” ’

Joshua 22 (NKJV)

The end result...

32 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them.

33 So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.

Find the whole truth

Joshua 22:16 **“Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord: ‘What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the Lord, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the Lord?’**

- People often tell themselves a story using just a few facts. (marriages, friends/school/work, at church)
- “Are you mad at me?” “He/she thinks I’m _____!”
- “What did he/she mean by that?”
- “They think they could do _____ better?”

It's important to gather information and establish all the facts.

- People often mislead others due to their actions or words. (Acts 21:28) Paul is arrested in the Temple

Acts 21:28 shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.” 29 (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

- We can really hurt a relationship or another person when we make up a story using just a few facts. Paul suffered from others' assumptions.

It's important to gather information and establish all the facts.

- People often think something should be done a certain way. (Matthew 20:10) (the Workers in the Vineyard)

Matthew 20:10 KJV But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:10 NLT When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage.

- Sometimes there is more than one way to solve a problem. (what do you do when it cold?)
- Communicate. Express yourself. Learn to listen.

It's important to gather information and establish all the facts.

- People often assume that another person is bad because something bad happened in that person's life. (Luke 13:1-5) (Jesus speaking to a crowd)

Luke 13:4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

- Karma? “He probably deserved it!”
- Sin does have consequence, but not every bad circumstance is the result of personal sin.

It's important to gather information and establish all the facts.

- People often come to the wrong assumptions because they have been misinformed. (John 7:40-43) The crowd asks could Jesus be the

John 7:40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”

- They knew God's Word, but not all the facts.

It's important to gather information and establish all the facts.

- People often jump to conclusions because they've already made up their minds. (John 1:46)

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

- Decided against something before even trying it. (my kids do this.)

It's important to gather information and establish all the facts.

- Solomon offered this advice in Proverbs

Proverbs 19:2 NASB Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, And he who hurries his footsteps errs.

Proverbs 19:2 NCV Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good. If you act too quickly, you might make a mistake.

- Do we quickly judge a matter, or another person?

Assuming based on appearance.

James 2:1 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Do we ever...

- Blame other people for the things other people usually don't have any control over. (rude girls?)
- Blame other people when we have not experienced what the other person has. (“get over it!”)
- Blame other people for certain things when we do similar things ourselves. (back to Joshua 22)

If we do these, we are passing judgment.

- It's easy to pass judgment when we are faultfinders.

Don't be a faultfinder

- Before we help others with their problems, we must clean up ours. (Matt. 7:1-5; Prov. 17:9; 1 Peter 4:8)

Matthew 7:5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Extend Mercy

- **Give the other guy the benefit of the doubt.**
- **Be Tenderhearted (Ephesians 4:32)**

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- **Be Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)**

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Extend Mercy

- **Be Compassionate (Colossians 3:12)**

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- **Be Loving (Matthew 5:43-44)**

Matthew 5:43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

We should Love! What is Love?

1 Corinthians 13:7 NKJV bears all things, **believes all things**, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:7 NCV Love patiently accepts all things. **It always trusts**, always hopes, and always endures.

1 Corinthians 13:7 NLT Love never gives up, **never loses faith**, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

- Love looks for the best in others. (assumes the best)
- We ignore this command when we assume the worst.

Conclusion

- Of those we love, we tend to believe the best. We trust them that they act with the best motives, therefore **we will not judge or condemn them on fragmentary evidence ...** even when circumstances are adverse, love hopes for the best.
- *The challenge of this sermon is that we look for the best in others rather than passing judgment, assuming the worst, or jumping to conclusions.*

Conclusion

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- **Our faith is based on evidence, not assumptions. So, we need to be a people who gather facts rather than jump to conclusions**

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.