



NCFI Caring Across Regions with Encouraging Scripture

Joshua's Leadership Tip #9

Blind Humility: A Battle Strategy by Carrie Dameron

“When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they also acted craftily... So the men of Israel took some of their provisions, and did not ask for the counsel of the Lord.” (Joshua 9:3-4,14 NASB)

According to Bible scholars, the deceit of the Gibeonites can represent the devil as a master strategist of assault on Christians. With a closer look at the ruse of the Gibeonites, we see many of our own vulnerabilities. Satan sometimes attacks us openly, sometimes craftily, but always with an unerring sense of where our weaknesses lie. (1)

The Gibeonites played on the Israelites' "pity" or emotions, an area we our most vulnerable to attack. When we are stressed, anxious, fearful, fatigued, and others, we are more vulnerable to not seeing things clearly or disregarding Biblical wisdom.

Joshua's error provides us with important reminders(2):

- (1) As Christians, we are involved in deadly spiritual warfare with a power far superior to our own strength. (1 Peter 5:8)
- (2) To be delivered from our opponent and his nefarious schemes, we must cloth ourselves with our spiritual armor as given to us in Christ. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- (3) The offensive weapons given to us by the Lord are the Word of God and prayer. Without the Word and prayer, we are sitting ducks. (Matthew 4:1-12)
- (4) When God's people are victorious or are prospering, it seems Satan doubles his efforts in attacks against them. (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

The following passages in Proverbs cautions us not to depend upon our own wisdom

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool is arrogant and careless. (Proverbs 14:12, 16, NASB).

At the root of Joshua and the Israelites' temptation was pride. They thought they didn't need to ask God. May we never be so mature as believers that we forget to walk by faith, not sight, and seek counsel from the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:7).

(1) Keathley III, J. Hampton. 9. Destruction of the Amorite Coalition (Joshua 10:1-43)

<https://bible.org/series/studies-life-joshua>

(2) Keathley, III, J. Hampton 8. The Peril of Walking by Sight (Joshua 9:1-27)

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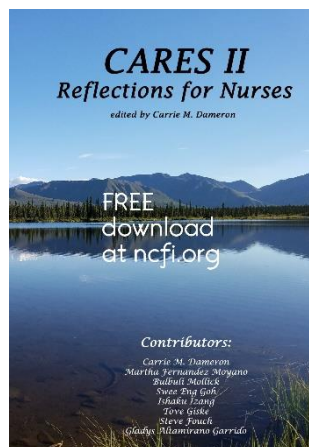
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