

MY way has Consequences

The danger for the Christian and Church of not **truly** asking God and **obeying** his instructions.

Psalm 106:13 They soon forgot his works, they waited **NOT** for HIS counsel

John 16:13 When he the spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into ALL truth he will NOT speak on his own, but speak what he **HEARS**.

4 Examples

Joshua 7: 1-15 Ai ASSUMPTION (God is with us)

Joshua 9: 3-26 Gibeonites AGREEMENTS (Wrong Partnerships)

Judges 1: 28-36 Promised Land ACCLIMATIZATION (Battle fatigue, Lets settle for this)

1 Samuel 13: 5-13 Saul's Sacrifice ADJUSTMENT (Do it my way)

ASSUMPTION (God is with us)

Context : Victory at Jericho, Israel then sends a small force to defeat this minor hamlet, however sin is in the camp and Israel pays the cost with 36 Life's and fear sets in. **THEN** they ask God why the defeat?

Illus: The world of sport is littered with Dead Certs who were overcome by rank outsiders, Boxing is especially prone to this one recently Anthony Joshua was comfortably overcome by Andy Ruiz Jnr losing 3 titles in the process, his ASSUMED Victory in tatters.

Assumption is at its most dangerous when all is **going well**, in a crisis we seek God, Israel were given a unique strategy by God to overcome Jericho. Joshua then sent spies to Ai, he and his advisers devised a tactic without asking God. As a sub note remember it was the sin of **1** Man (Achan) and his family that took down a nation. It is a scriptural principle that at the start of conquest the biggest enemy was INSIDE the camp, a flaw in the armour was fatal for some.

See NT **Acts 5** Ananias & Sapphira as church moves in power of Holy Spirit to conquer, sin was **inside**. Hence the full and awesome judgement of God in both cases. Notice centuries apart it was the same Sin (Covetousness and stealing from God) the devil has the same well-tried strategies --- they still work today.

Remember it's the **Family/Body** principle what I do in the DARK affects **you**, all of us have a co-responsibility to each other to live Holy lives.

So how do we deal with **assumption** which is the **acceptance of something without proof**- yes, the spies sussed out Ai but they had no proof God wanted a small army because they did NOT ask him.

Common-sense dictates you are not going to be Hyper spiritual and pray how many sweeteners in your coffee or what tie goes with which shirt.

But let's learn to live a life that does **ASK God**, cultivate waiting on and hearing from him.

2 Samuel 5: 17-25 God gives King David ,2 very different battle tactics in what seemed an **identical** situation David brings his knowledge to the table "Should I do this"? yes, says God, the next time God says do it **THIS** way now David, result the enemy thrashed.

3 Key Principles David **Asked**, David **Listened**, David **Obeyed** there is no hint of assumption just because he has won previously.

Conc: God save us from Assumption by listening and obeying

AGREEMENTS (Wrong Partnerships)

Context : Gibeonite nation are fearful of obliteration, their capital which should have been destroyed, was only 25 Miles from Israel's base at Gilgal. They deceive Joshua/Elders, again God is not consulted. Decision is based simply on words and eyesight, Logic and Rational. Joshua enters into a binding agreement a (Wrong Partnership) with generational consequences.

Joshua cannot break the Covenant but immediately has to now defend his new allies as 5 Canaanite kings prepare to attack the Gibeonites.

Ultimately God is gracious, the 5 Kings are overcome and for the rest of their days the Gibeonites become servants of Israel and loyal ones at that. BUT the principle of really asking/hearing/Obedying God remains

What's the lesson? be careful **what** you align to, **where** you invest your time, **who** you commit to, the Devil is called a "Deceiving Serpent" **2 Cor 11:23** an Angel of light **2 Cor 11:14** the Father of Lies **John 8:44**.

The Gibeonites **told 5 Lies** the worst of which was "**We have come because of the name of the Lord**" sounded oh so spiritual, appealed to the ego, but was in fact a "Blasphemy".

"**Quote**" **Warren Weirbach** said he learned the difference when Pastoring between **True Seekers** and **Time wasting Sneakers**.

Joshua and the Elders took the Scientific approach all the evidence **seemed** to stack up, but they omitted the Spiritual approach to wait on God and Ai's costly mistake was quickly repeated.

Conc: God save us from unwise commitments by truly hearing you.

ACCLIMATIZATION, (Settle for less, we've fought hard)

Context: Israel were now at a crucial stage, their command was to Conquer and subdue **ALL** the land, they had **battle fatigue** it happens. But instead of waiting on God for renewal they compromised, 7 of the 12 tribes **never fully occupied their inheritance**. Worse still they began to neglect reading and obeying all of God's word.

They got **soft on sin** and **watered down the word** and **compromised** with the enemy. The current middle east reveals the historical consequences of their actions.

In a recent TV Interview Piers Morgan said to a Christian doctor who would not use transgender pronouns and was subsequently sacked from his position. “Come on now, Jesus preached tolerance and love, we’ve moved on from believing all the bible”, (Piers closed the Interview with a Cynical aside) “give the good doctor some rocks to throw”.

Quote G Campbell Morgan said “God is perpetually at war with sin”.

Quote BJP: “Compassion does not have to dilute Conviction”.

Quote BJP ; “Beware of a Fast Food theology and easy to digest Christianity, its desperately unhealthy for your soul”

Its tough standing for Christ and it will get tougher and Martyrs are giving their life for the faith across the world and yes it its already happening here, with Employment and income loss, Social ostracization, ridicule and the “Offended Culture” .Good people are viewed as unsuitable for adopting children if they have a “non-diverse” viewpoint. The next step will be authorities removing **your OWN** children from the “danger” of a Christian upbringing by putting them in CARE?

It seems we are tolerant and Inclusive of virtually anything except biblical Christianity, we don’t even seem to have goal posts with our evolving pitch that we play life upon.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

The Harvest I look for is Gods approval-- not Society’s.

Conc: Don’t ACCLIMATIZE and loose your full inheritance

ADJUSTMENT (Do it my way)

Context: Saul is waiting on Samuel who’s promised appearance is delayed, the scene is set for a battle with the Philistines but with the delay Saul’s army begins to disperse, Saul lacking Faith Trust and Patience offers a sacrifice **he unilaterally takes on** the role of a Prophet and Priest. He did it HIS way and did not wait on God.

In life under pressure we can capitulate & give the people **what they want**

We must not pre-empt Gods timing even if it takes a lifetime, we know Saul functioned not in Faith because he said “**I Saw, I acted**” his religious act cut no ice with Samuel. You can do religious things, but if it's done YOUR way: its utter folly.

Saul lost his crown, albeit over a course of time and ultimately his Authority. Because he **had heard from God** but he still did it his way.

In our Church life, in our personal Life, let's do it **HIS** way

Conc: Don't ADJUST to MY way because of pressure

Today's message is not to ALARM but rather to ALERT us- we can have increasing confidence to live & share because

Romn 1:16 NKJ I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for **everyone who believes.**

Phillipians 1:6 NKJ Being confident of this very thing, that **he** who has begun a good work in you **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ

Our Fundamental question was -

The danger for the Christian and Church of not **truly** asking God and **obeying** his instructions.

Sermon in a Sentence

Ask God, Hear God, Obey God