

Series: THRIVE 2025!

Joshua 9

Believing the Enemy

Thoughts:

An anonymous wit reminds us that a dentist's mistake is pulled out, a lawyer's mistake is imprisoned, a teacher's mistake is failed, a printer's mistake is corrected, a pharmacist's mistake is buried, a postman's mistake is forwarded, and an electrician's mistake could be shocking.

"It's only those who do nothing that make no mistakes."
In Joshua's case, doing nothing was his mistake; and this chapter explains what happened.

It records the three stages in his second failure (after Ai) in the conquest of the Promised Land.

It also tells us how Joshua turned his mistake into a victory.

The Lost World ...

They Lie to you.

Their own Self Interest is their only priority.

They want you to Compromise to cooperate.

(they will never rise all the way to meet you)

They will use your Integrity against you.

Joshua should have learned from AI.

Problem: Joshua didn't See AI as his own personal Failure.

“Everything rises and falls on Leadership.”

Joshua saw AI as Achan's fault.

YES: Joshua gave Clear Instructions to his followers?

(Joshua 6:17-19, 24)

NO: Joshua Failed in His Follow-ship of the LORD.

He Failed to ask guidance from God on how to proceed in the matter of AI.

If Joshua had checked with God before the 1st attack, those 36 men would still be alive.

How do you approach your Failures?

- Blame Other -or- Take Responsibility to find solutions
- Repeat the Same Mistakes -or- Learn from Each Mistake
- Expect Never to Fail Again -or- Know Failure Is Part of Progress
- Expect to Continue to Fail -or- Maintain a Positive Attitude
- Accept Tradition Blindly-or-Challenge Outdated Assumptions
- Be Limited by Past Mistakes -or-Take New Risks
- Think I am a Failure -or- Believing Something Didn't Work
- Quit -or- Persever

Instead of Blaming Achan totally, Joshuas should have accepted his own measure of personal responsibility in the defeat at AI and learned from it.

The 5 Irrefutable Rules of Failure

Rule #1. You will learn Lessons.

Rule #2. There are no Mistakes - Only Lessons

Rule #3: A lesson is repeated until it's learned.

Rule #4: If you don't learn the easy lessons, they get harder.

(Pain is the Universal way God gets your attention)

Rule #5: You know you've learned the lesson when your Heart causes your actions change.

“When we fall down, we might as well pickup something while we are down there.”

Rules #3: Joshua will repeat this lesson in Chapter 9.

Rule #4: Joshua will Feel the Consequences of his bad decision in Chapter 10.

I. Believing the Enemy: (9:1-15)

- A. What Gibeonites Did: (Vs 3-5)
- B. What the Gibeonites Said: (Vs 6-13)
- C. Why the Gibeonites Succeeded: (Vs 14-15)

II. Enlisting the Enemy: (9:16-27)

III. Defending the Enemy: (10:1-28)

- A. The Enemies Call their Armies: (Vs 1-5)
- B. The Gibeonites Call Joshua: (Vs 6-7)
- C. Joshua Calls Out to the Lord: (Vs 8-15)
 - 1. Believing the Divine Promise: (Vs 8)
 - 2. Using a Sound Strategy: (Vs 9)
 - 3. Calling on the Lord: (Vs 12)

D. Joshua Calls to His Army: (vs 15-28)