



“Family Feud!”
Joshua 22:10-12

Background Information

- After the children of Israel had left Egypt, headed for “the promised land;” at this point in their travels, some of the Israelites did not want to cross the Jordan River to live there
- Their travels had brought them to what some Israelite family members thought was a “very suitable spot,” and this is what happened: Numbers 32:1-5


The Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks, saw the lands of Jazer and Gilead were suitable for livestock. So they came to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the leaders of the community and said ... “the lands the Lord subdued before the people of Israel (this area)—are suitable for livestock, and your servants have livestock.”



“If we have found favor in your eyes,” they said, “let this land be given to your servants as our possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan River.”

Verse 6, Moses said,“Should your fellow Israelites go to war while you sit here?” (How discouraging is that?)


Verse 20, “If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves before your Lord for battle and if all of you who are armed cross over the Jordan before the Lord until He has driven His enemies out before Him—then when the land is subdued before the Lord, you may return and be free from your obligation (without guilt), to the Lord and to Israel. And this land will be your possession before the Lord.”



- So the Gadenites, Reubenites, and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh agreed. Numbers 32:25.... *“We your servants will do as our Lord commands. Our children and wives, our flocks and herds will remain here in the cities of Gilead. But your servants, every man who is armed for battle, will cross over to fight before the Lord, just as our Lord says.”*

- Now in today’s lesson, in the book of Joshua, Moses is gone, and the 2 ½ tribes had helped to clear out Israel’s enemies in the land that was promised to all of them

- Joshua in chapter 22 is appreciative of their obedience and reminds them of their agreement with Moses,



Vs 2-5 “... You have done all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded ... you have not deserted your fellow Israelites but have carried out the mission the Lord your God gave you on the other side of the Jordan. But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you:

“.....to Love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, to keep His commands, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all of your heart and with all your soul.”

What Great Advice to Give Your Loved Ones!

- **Love the Lord - A strong desire to please, Mark 12:30**
- **Walk with the Lord, Proverbs 3:5-6 (consistency)**
- **Hold Fast to the Lord, Hebrews 10:23 (grab tightly to what you have professed)**
- **Serve the Lord (With gladness), Psalms 100**

Give Your Loved Ones This Advice Before They Depart From You, and While They Are Gone!

When You Can't Be With Them, God Can!

But Even in the Best of Families, Problems Can Arise! Joshua 22:9-12

“So the Reubenites and Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired in accordance with the command of the Lord through Moses.”

When they came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan. And when the Israelites heard that they had built the altar on the border of Canaan and Geliloth near the Jordan on the Israelite side, the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.

Now There Was About to be a Civil War in the Family!

Now You Have a Family Feud for the Usual Fundamental Reasons!

#1 Unilateral Decision-Making—2 ½ tribes had made a huge decision and had not bothered to inform the other tribes

They built a huge religious altar, with no consensus from the others on their side of the Jordan, Joshua 22:10

Did you know that the pattern of unilateral decision making is a huge reason for divorces in this country? (Ex. One man purchased a boat without his wife's knowledge)

#2 They neglected to ask for permission from the other responsible family members (They placed no value on the feelings of the others)

(Maybe they thought it was easier to get forgiveness than permission). When we make “unilateral decisions” (time, money, friends and associates) they can lead to conflict

So the Providence of God Took Over!

So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead—to Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh. With him they sent 10 of the chief men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.

- Phinehas, the priest, was respected by both sides. He served as the negotiator to help to work out their differences
 - When neutral spiritual counsellors are summoned, it shows a strength rather than a weakness (you show that it's about the truth and God's glorification and not about you)
 - When reading this story, it becomes obvious that God arranged this meeting (face to face) no letters, texting, phone
- Matthew 18:15 “..If thy brother trespass against thee,.....GO**

By Not Discussing Their Decision With the Whole Nation, the Nation Drew Their Own Conclusions

The Nation's Accusations Against the Two Tribes

(Verses 16-20)

- After all God has done for you, how could you leave Him? How could you break your faith in God and build yourself an altar?
- Don't you all remember the last time some of us tried to do our own thing (our people got sexually involved with the women of Moab and their idol god) and our God sent a plague killing 24,000 of us. *"Up to this day we have not cleansed ourselves from that sin."* Numbers 25:1-9
- *"Don't y'all remember what happened to Achan? (Joshua 7) His sin of stealing enemy riches that were set aside for God, caused many families to suffer (36 men died because of Achan,) SIN COSTS! Achan didn't die alone for his sin.*

Observations

- The Israelite family wanted to help the other 2 ½ tribes whom they felt had turned from God
- In Verse 19, this was their plea: *“If the land is too contaminated where you are, and you want to come back to our tabernacle you can!”* Evil communications corrupt ...
- But if they persisted in their own altar construction, and thus destroy the Israelite community, Family Violence Would Have to Occur (the Israelite nation felt that they had no choice)
- They cited 24,000 Israelites that died in Numbers 25, for their disobedience
- They cited Achan and his family in Joshua 7, who didn't respect God and died. Now these 2 ½ tribes would be next

Before Acting on Their Assumptions The Nations Allowed The 2 ½ Tribes to Explain Themselves

- **Conflict is often the result of assumption**
- **Without all the facts, the wheels of the mind begin to spin, people become paranoid and afraid, and may act apart from reason**
- **The 2 ½ tribes explained that the altar constructed was not built to take the place of the original altar the nation of Israel had, but was a REPLICA/COPY verse 28, of the original one that the 10 tribes had (they said that it would not be used for offering sacrifices like the original one the nations had)**
- **They said the altar would be there for your generations and our generations to come, to recognize us as in the One Family of God, though we lived over on the other side of the Jordan River, which was a border between you and us**

Observations

- No parent wants their child to walk away from God. This would be their children's "generational link" to know and for others to know to whom they belong
- When Phinehas and the leaders heard what the two tribes had to say, verse 30 says they were pleased
- They said that they recognized that the Lord was with the nation of Israel and had providentially arranged this meeting to prevent this "Family Feud" from becoming an all-out civil war with needless bloodshed.

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and the things wherewith one may edify another."

Romans 14:19

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel **Acts 15:7**

Believe the Gospel **Acts 15:7**

Repent of Sins **Acts 17:30**

Confess Christ **Acts 8:37**

Be Baptized **Acts 8:38**

