

First words: How do I make decisions?

1. Through My Feelings – My heart tells me
2. Through My Finances – My wallet tells me
3. Through My Figuring – My mind tells me
4. Through My Flipping – Chance tells me
5. Through My Fleecing – Signs tell me
6. Through My Floundering – Everybody & Everything tell me
7. Through My Friends – My peers tell me
8. Through My Fleeing – My circumstances tell me
9. Through My Fears – My phobias tell me
10. Through My Fantasies – My wishes and dreams tell me

The _____ for a Bad Decision – **Joshua 9:1-4a**

A. There is an opportunity in the midst of our _____ -**Joshua 8:33**
- *And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel.*

B. There is an opportunity in the midst of our _____ -**Joshua 9:1-2**
- *As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, ² they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel.*

C. There is an opportunity in the midst of our _____ - **Joshua 9:3-4a** - *But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, ⁴ they on their part acted with cunning....*

The _____ of a Bad Decision – **Joshua 9:4b-15**

A. We think it _____ right – **Joshua 9:4b -6***and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, ⁵ with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. ⁶ And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us.”*

B. We think it _____ right – **Joshua 9:9-10** - *They said to him, “From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰ and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth.*

1. Because of our understanding of God’s Word – **Deuteronomy 20:10 & 15** – *“When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it....¹⁵ Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not cities of the nations here.*

2. Because of our pride –**Joshua 6:27** – *So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.*

3. Because of our senses – **Joshua 9:12-13** – *“Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly. ¹³ These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey.”*

C. We think it _____ right – **Joshua 9:14-15** - *So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. ¹⁵ And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.*

The _____ from a Bad Decision – **Joshua 9:16-21**

A. We are _____ from our purpose - **Joshua 9:16-17** - *At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them. ¹⁷ And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.*

B. We are _____ to our purpose – **Joshua 9:18** - *But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders.*

C. We are _____ in our purpose – **Joshua 9:19-20** - *But all the leaders said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them. ²⁰ This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them.”*

The Comeback

The _____ after a Bad Decision – **Joshua 9:22-27**

A. _____ to realistically deal with the consequences of the bad decision - **Joshua 9:22–23** - *Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, “Why did you deceive us, saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell among us? ²³ Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.”*

B. _____ to live in integrity even when it hurts through the bad decision - **Joshua 10:5-6** - *Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it. ⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.”*

C. _____ for God’s grace even in spite of the bad decision - **Joshua 9:26-27** - *So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them. ²⁷ But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.*

D. _____ to learn from my mistakes in a bad decision.

1. Am I hearing what I want to hear?
2. Am I relying primarily on my five senses?
3. Am I not talking to God about it before the fact?
4. Am I being in a hurry to make a decision?
5. Am I following a Biblical methodology for making decisions?

