

## “Decisions and Commitments”

### Introduction:

Introduce self, HN team [picture], family [picture #2]

Lot of decisions to get to this point...come from WI; choose team...

Everyone knows parents have to make lots of decisions –

But the one that gets me every time – I can't get it right - amount of napkins at a restaurant!

Transition: Thankfully, that is not a big or consequential decision. I can always go back and get more napkins

**Organizational Sentence:** In our passage today, we see two methods of decision making by Joshua.

**Main Point:** **When God shows you the way, don't turn back.**

**Context: Joshua 9:1-4** – the enemies of the Lord and His people resorted to two different ways of dealing with God's judgment: one group fights God's people and the other tries to deceive them. God's people, especially Joshua, have to decide how to handle this...

### I. Joshua 9:5-27

- a. Gibeonites seek peace treaty with Israel pretending to be from distant land
- b. Joshua is totally deceived by an elementary plan (very vague – “very distant country”) because he “did not consult the Lord.”
- c. God's word is clear and helpful: **Deuteronomy 7:1-2** “make no treaties!”  
**(1<sup>st</sup> method) Deciding based on our own understanding**
- d. App: How often is this me? All the time! Examples...
  - i. There are people who consult Him on everything (dinner, school, live, marry...) – that's great! God is passionate about us and the things going on in our lives – He loves us!
  - ii. ILL: As a father and husband – I am passionately interested in the details of the lives of my wife and kids (even the amount of characters on Paw Patrol). I want to know, but there are important things I want to hear about to help influence their decisions.

### II. Joshua 10:1-15

- a. Joshua's fear is coming to reality from Josh. 7:9
- b. Joshua's prayer was in line with what God already promised (to give them the land!)  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> Method) Deciding based on God's wisdom**
- c. Application: How do we consult the Lord?
  - i. His word
  - ii. His people (HS is in them)
  - iii. Prayer
- d. Something to consider – elders, staff...serious about this
  - i. Hamilton North
    1. Why are we going?
      - a. Harvest – not the problem – 11,200 people within 5 mi of HHHS
      - b. 17 churches in general area and by using average (186) (3,200 people are in a church).
        - i. **8,000 people who need a church in northern Hamilton Co.**
        - ii. Goal not to get people in church, but to connect them to Jesus!
      - c. We believe the best way to do this is to activate the church in its local community. This is YOU!
    2. What we need you to do – commit to Jesus and to serving Him!

**Conclusion:**

**When God shows you the way, don't turn back.**

Dan Crosley – influenced hundreds of lives for Jesus by deciding to follow Jesus. He didn't turn back.

Prayer

Next Steps

The first decision we make is to follow Jesus – no turning back!