

Assume The Best In Others (Joshua 22:10-34)

By Faith sermon series

By Pastor David Hillis, 05.06.18

BIG IDEA: Trusting God involves trusting people who are also committed to trusting God, assuming the best in them until proven otherwise.

Even Godly People Mess Up Sometimes (Joshua 22:1-2, 10-12)

- When we are hurt or offended, our human tendency is to do or say things that feel like the right thing to do at that time, only to discover later that there might have been a better way.

A Lesson Learned (Psalms 1:1; Romans 14:10,12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:7; Proverbs 18:13)

- Sometimes we interpret things in a way that seem so clear and obvious to us, we end up drawing conclusions, making snap judgments or condemning other people, even when we think we have all the information we need.
- Every day, misunderstandings people have with each other cause conflicts, splinter relationships and worse.
- Love gives the benefit of the doubt and trusts the best in others until given clear reasons to do otherwise.

Communication Leads to Understanding (Joshua 22:13-27)

- Even Godly people who think they have the whole story don't, until they have listened well to the person they disagree with, who perhaps has a different perspective.
- Assume the best in others by valuing your brother and sister enough to seek them out, listen and say "help me understand."
- Don't rush to judgment, confront from a place of love rather than anger, seeing the relationship as more important than being right.

MY NEXT STEP: *Have you built negative impressions of someone over time? Are you sure they are grounded? What could you do this week to listen more and try to understand the truth from their perspective?*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. If you have been following along in reading through Joshua in this series, read Joshua 13:15 through the end of chapter 19 this week. Read them slowly and carefully each day, paying attention to whatever verses or phrases stand out to you. What might God be saying to you here? What principles can you apply to your life today to better live *by faith*?
2. Reread our key text today, Joshua 22:10-34. Why do you think these people who were closely following God were so quick to talk among themselves about others and make snap judgments? Could you have made a similar mistake? Do you see how not assuming the best in others can set you or others back in their faith? Read John 13:34-35. In this passage, Jesus told His disciples that people would know they were His disciples by seeing their love for each other; that is, their love would point people to Christ, just like the Israelites wanted their altar to point people to God. Why is loving one another in the church essential to our witness to those outside the church? What needs to change about the way you love others so that you might be a better witness for Christ?
3. Reflect on one scene from Jesus' life in John 7:37-52. While Jesus is teaching, some are convinced He is the Messiah; others assume otherwise, simply because He was from Galilee. Nicodemus warns his fellow Pharisees of the danger of making judgments of others without listening and seeking to understand first (v50). Who in your life have you been quick to judge? Pray about those situations, and see what God asks of you today.
4. Next week we will talk about what it means to use our faith to dream big dreams with God. This will be based on Joshua 11. Read ahead if you would like, and consider how you can think bigger thoughts, dream bigger dreams, and set bigger goals for your life than you might have done in the past. Has God called you to prepare for things in life that seem at least a little bit intimidating? Share your thoughts with Pastor Dave on the Hello card at mygrace.church today!