

# **Word Trap**

**11-20-22**

Joshua 9:14 (NIV)

The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.

**In any communication, there are facts and also the intent of the heart. Therefore, we should always carefully hear the facts, but also consult the LORD to understand the intent of the heart so we do not fall into “word traps”. Even after all Joshua has experienced, he unfortunately falls into a “word trap”.**

Joshua 9:3-6 (NIV) NO/OH

<sup>3</sup>When the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, <sup>4</sup>they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. <sup>5</sup>They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. <sup>6</sup>Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”

**The people of Gibeon understood that they were included in the people Joshua was to destroy. Therefore, they devised a ruse/deception to save themselves from destruction. Joshua is suspicious, but he hears them out and samples their provisions to verify their story. Based on the facts presented, Joshua makes a good faith treaty with the Gibeonites. But in his confidence Joshua did not first inquire of the LORD.**

Joshua 9:14-15 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup>The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

Now we can look at the Gibeonites, and say, “Smart move!” **However, this account is not about the Gibeonites, it is about Joshua and his obedience to God.** Joshua being fooled resulted in an alliance with a people God marked for destruction. Reading through Joshua and the OT we see that the Gibeonites were a problem to Israel for years to come. **Joshua got caught in a “Word Trap”!** Because Joshua made a treaty with them, he not only can’t destroy them, but he now is also obligated to protect them. **Lesson:** They heard the words, verified the physical evidence, but did not inquire of the LORD. We are spiritual beings and have spiritual insight. **When we do not live as spiritual beings, we get caught in the world’s “word trap”.** To see beyond the physical evidence, we must inquire of the LORD before making a decision. We must always examine the facts. Facts are facts. However, with God’s wisdom we see the heart intent behind those facts.

**Another Example:**

1Kings 2:17-18 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup>Adonijah asked Bathsheba, “Please ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag as my wife.” <sup>18</sup>“Very well,” Bathsheba replied, “I will speak to the king for you.”

**The facts seem innocent enough. However, upon examination the “word trap” is profound and full of red flags.**

**First – Adonijah was next in line to be king after his father David, but Solomon was chosen instead.**

**Second – Why was Adonijah approaching Solomon’s mother?**

**Third – When David was very old, he could not keep warm.**

**Not having our modern capabilities, Abishag was the young woman appointed to keep him warm. The Bible clearly state that David did not have any relationship with her. However, she was very closely associated with King David.**

**Bathsheba doesn’t see any issues. So, she makes the request. Now Solomon who the Bible regards as the wisest man in the world does not fall into the “word trap”.**

1Kings 2:21-23 (NIV) NO/OH

<sup>21</sup>So she said to Solomon, “Let Abishag be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah.” <sup>22</sup>King Solomon answered his mother, “Why do you request Abishag for Adonijah? You might as well request the kingdom for him—he is my older brother—yes, for him and for Abiathar the priest and Joab my father’s commander!” <sup>23</sup>Then King Solomon swore by the LORD: “May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if Adonijah does not pay with his life for this request!”

**Solomon clearly sees the facts. He also sees the intent of the heart, the “word trap”. Solomon says, “You might as well request the kingdom for him!” Solomon clearly saw the intent of the heart behind this request:**

**First** – Adonijah had previously made a claim to the throne. By giving Abishag to Adonijah, who is Solomon's older brother, you would enhance Adonijah's claim to the throne because of Abishag's close connection with King David.

**Second** – When Adonijah tried to take David's throne, Abiathar the priest and Joab, David's old military commander, gave their support to Adonijah. Thus this "word trap" includes them both in a conspiracy to replace Solomon.

**Third** – Adonijah who was previously rebuked for his rebellion is now returning to his same rebellious intent.

**Lesson:** Bathsheba and Solomon had the facts. But Solomon had God's wisdom to see the heart intent behind the facts.

**Jesus never fell into the "word trap". Jesus always saw the hearts intent behind the facts. Example:**

Luke 20:21-22 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup>The spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth." <sup>22</sup>Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

**The facts! The absolute truth! However, the facts are a "word trap" attempting to destroy Jesus and HIS ministry. Jesus clearly sees their true intent.**

Luke 20:23 (NIV)

Jesus saw through their duplicity!

**Jesus demonstrates an important point for us to see clearly. Lesson: Jesus didn't need or desire their praise therefore what they said did not cloud HIS vision and HE could easily see their hypocrisy. Matt.5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure (uncluttered) in heart, for they shall see God." With a pure heart Jesus saw as God saw and HE was never deceived even by the truth spoken with evil intent. Seeing the "word trap" enabled Jesus to answer with wisdom.**

Luke 20:24 (NIV)

Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?" "Caesar's," they replied.

**By seeing clearly, Jesus turned their deception, "the word trap", into a spiritual lesson.**

Luke 20:25 (NIV)

He said to them, "Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

**By understanding the "word trap", Jesus controlled the conversation and used it to expose their deception.**

**This is a lesson Jesus wants every believer to understand!**

Matt.10:16 (NIV)

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

**Granted Jesus is God and is able to know men's thoughts.**

**However, while HE was on this earth, HE was showing us how a man should live through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, through the Holy Spirit, we can recognize the “word trap” and respond in God’s wisdom. As spiritual beings we cleanse our heart, inquire of God, and listen to the Holy Spirit.**

Matt.10:19-20 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup>At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup>for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.