

## VICTORY OVER CONFLICT

MARCH 12, 2023

### WORSHIP

Anchor of Our Lives, God is Great, Solid Ground, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer, Great is the Lord.

### WELCOME

What conflicts are you aware of that is going on in the world today?

### WORD

#### **JOSHUA 22:1-8** (READ THE ENTIRE **JOSHUA 22**)

<sup>1</sup> Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, <sup>2</sup> and said to them, “You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you and have listened to my voice in all that I commanded you. <sup>3</sup> You have not forsaken your brothers these many days to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the Lord your God. <sup>4</sup> And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brothers, as He spoke to them; therefore turn now and go to your tents, to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan. <sup>5</sup> Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.” <sup>6</sup> So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents. <sup>7</sup> Now to the one half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half Joshua gave a possession among their brothers westward beyond the Jordan. So when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them, <sup>8</sup> and said to them, “Return to your tents with great riches and with very much livestock, with silver, gold, bronze, iron, and with very many clothes; divide the spoil of your enemies with your brothers.”

The year 1962 was the year that our world has gotten the closest to a nuclear war in what is known as the Cuban missile crisis. The world’s superpowers then were positioned to confront each other with their military might, and nuclear arsenal. Thankfully, at almost the last minute, the US President decided to go through diplomatic channels and through the help of an intermediary, a compromise solution was reached with USSR that prevented a devastating war from happening.

In our lives, conflicts also happen closer to home. As we come to Joshua 22 in our series, let us find out how we can have victory over conflict.

#### **1. CHECK YOUR HEART (vv. 1-9)**

Moses gave the 2.5 tribes of Reuben, Gad and half-tribe of Manasseh to move into their inheritance east of the Jordan only after they have helped their brothers from the other 9.5 tribes of Israel conquer their side of the Jordan (**Numbers 32:20-25**). Joshua reminded the 2.5 tribes of this as they were ready to go into their own territories after they have fulfilled their promise to help their brothers conquer the areas west of the Jordan. Joshua also gives a very important reminder to these 2.5 tribes: “be very careful” (Heb. “meod”: extremely careful) to obey God’s law, to love the Lord, walk in all His ways and keep His commandments, hold fast and serve Him with all your heart” (**v.5**). Joshua was telling them to proceed with extreme caution. We need to look at our state of battle before we even go into battle if we want to have victory over conflict. What is our heart condition before we enter into any kind of battle (**1 Peter 5:8**).

As soon as the 2.5 tribes settled into their side of the Jordan, they built an altar. This made the 9.5 tribes so upset that they were ready to confront the 2.5 tribes in battle! Why did the 9.5 tribes react so aggressively? It was because of what Moses commanded (**Deuteronomy 12:10-16**). God was the one who will choose the place where they will worship and offer up their sacrifices, tithes, etc., and the Lord has already chosen the place on the west side of the Jordan at Shiloh. Moses also gave a dire warning that the Israelites were to “strike down” anyone who will worship idols (**Deuteronomy 13:12-16**), in their minds building an altar in a place that God did not choose is a sign that the 2.5 tribes were going to worship other gods there.

#### **2. DON’T REACT, INTERACT (vv. 10-13)**

We assume the worse, so it’s so important that we don’t react, but interact. The 9.5 tribes could have gone ahead into battle based on their assumptions. But instead, they sent a delegation of their representatives along with Phineas, the priest to talk to the 2.5 tribes and find out what was really going on.

Learn to have a “suspense file”, suspend judgment first before we do something that we will regret (**James 1:19-20**)! Could it be that you still have conflicts in your life right now because you have made judgements and assumptions and you’re still carrying it with you? When you experience or observe events, don’t take action right away in relation to it—take time to process it and only do something after you know and understand the truth about it.

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How did the 9.5 tribes respond so well?

#### 3. FOCUS ON THE ISSUE AND RESOLUTION (vv. 13-20)

Oftentimes, what can make or break the way a conflict is resolved is how we focus on the issue (v.16). The delegation from the 9.5 focused on the altar that the 2.5 built and how it is seen as an act of rebellion. They also were focused on the resolution that we read about in **verse 19**. Many times, when we have conflict, we're focused on who is "right". Focus on the issue and what can be done to resolve it.

Use the right words – don't say "always" and "never". Use "I feel..." vs. "you" (judgment statement). When exhausted, agree to pause, rest and immediately resolve the next day.

Remember, right words, right time and right motivation when dealing with conflict (**Ephesians 4:29**).

#### 4. HONOR GOD AND RESPOND HUMBLY (vv. 21-34)

The response of the 2.5 tribes showed they had good intentions, and even a humble posture. They were gentle and humble in the way they responded (**Proverbs 15:1, 1 Peter 5:5, Colossians 3:12-13**). Could it be that you haven't forgiven, and that's why you can't humble yourself and resolve conflict?

Already choose to forgive the person you conflict with, and no matter what, choose unconditional love. Maybe God is asking you, "if your spouse, child, parent, etc. never changes, will you still love them anyway?" God calls us to a higher standard in our relationships (**Colossians 3:14**). Choose to forgive the way God has He has forgiven us and choose to love in His love.

The gentle and humble response of the 2.5 tribes pleased the rest of Israelite tribes. The result was that the sons of Israel blessed God (v.33). The source of conflict became a source of glory for God. When we follow God's word, He will be glorified.

One of the main solutions that the two superpowers in the Cuban missile crisis put in place to avoid a similar problem, was to establish a "hotline", a direct line of communication between their leaders without the need to go through back channels. Do you have a hotline to the God of the universe? This can only be established through a personal relationship with Jesus as your Savior and Lord. To have victory over conflict, start there, ask Jesus to come into your life to forgive your sins, give you eternal life and carefully follow Him; faithfully apply His Word to any conflict you may be experiencing today.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

#### 1. Self-Check.

What are your sources of conflict lately?

#### 2. Setting It Right.

How have you resolved these conflicts?

#### 3. Living It Out.

How will you "victoriously" resolve them given the lessons from Joshua 22?

### WORKS

#### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for family and friends who are experiencing conflict at home, work, etc. Pray for nations who are in conflict with one another as well. Ask the Lord to intervene in the hearts of people involved. Reach out to those within your influence and help them have victory over conflict by turning to God, be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ and seek to resolve their conflicts with the Lord's help.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort for Turkish and Syrian people devastated by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

### MEMORY VERSE

#### JAMES 1:19-20

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.