

Handling Conflict

Joshua 22

- I. **The Story of Israel's Conflict and Resolution (Joshua 22:1-34)**
 - A. **Exhortation & Blessing**: Joshua exhorts the 2 ½ tribes before they go home across the Jordan (1-9).
 - B. **Misunderstanding**: The 2 ½ tribes build an altar at the Jordan – seemingly in disobedience (Deuteronomy 12:13,14); so the 9 ½ tribes prepare for war (10-12).
 - C. **Confrontation/Discussion**: A delegation is sent to confront and mediate the potential conflict (13-20).
 - D. **Explanation**: The 2 ½ tribes explain that their altar was not intended as a rival, but as a reminder that they were part of Israel (21-29).
 - E. **Resolution**: The explanation is accepted and forgiveness granted (30-34).
- II. **Lessons about Conflict Resolution**
 - A. Real misunderstandings do happen – because we cannot see or judge motives.
 - B. Some conflicts are avoidable.
 1. More **wisdom** – “What might this cause?”
 2. Better **communication** – “Who should know this or have input?”
 3. Really **listening** – “Do I really know what they are/were thinking or feeling?”
 - C. Get help when you need help (Mediation)
 - D. Realize sin exists on both sides. Admit your own.
 - E. Forgive and let it go – like Christ (Ephesians 4:32).
 - The importance of Grace, Truth and Time