



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God Is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 17

Lesson Title: Always Talk To God, Our Rescuer

Take Home Point: Talk to God, even about little things.

Warm-Up:

There is an interesting situation that occurs each year with my favorite college football team. The school recruits the best high school players it can to maintain a winning tradition. The new collegiates were real standouts in high school. For some, talent alone carried them through their high school years. When those players are introduced to the new training regimen and playbook, it's a real shock. One or more decide they can continue to get by on talent alone. The humiliation of the first practice opens their eyes to their need for the coaches' guidance.

Read: Joshua 9:3-27

Observation (What happened?):

By God's command, what were the Israelites to do with the inhabitants of the land?

According to verse 14, what did Israel's leaders not do when the Gibeonites told their story?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the Israelites did not inquire of the Lord?

How do you think Joshua and the other leaders felt when they discovered they had been deceived?

Insight:

How often have you found yourself looking back at a situation and saying or thinking "if only" or "I wish?" You know there is nothing you can do about what happened, and the consequences may be with you a long time, but you also know that you trusted your own decision-making without consulting God. Usually it is not during the difficult times that this occurs – it seems then that we are well aware of our neediness and cry to God for guidance. No, it is usually when things are going well in our lives, when the "right" choice seems obvious, that we stumble on Satan's temptation or our overconfidence. It's in those times we really need to keep our guard up and be aware of our constant need for God's help, even in what seem like little things. Our human nature wants so much to be independent, just like a growing child. But just like a child, we still need our heavenly Father's guiding hand and direction. We always will. It's how he made us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you make talking to God a part of your everyday living? What situation are you facing in which you need God's wisdom?

Pray for your small group children to ask God for guidance in their everyday lives. Pray for their parents, too.