

"After the Death of Joshua" Judges 1:1.

1-The children of Israel asked the Lord,  
Who shall go up for us against the  
Canaanites first, to fight against them?

2-Three lessons stand out from the above section  
which we shall do well to consider.....

1-Before taking in hand any important business  
we should seek God's direction.....

2-Distrust of our own wisdom (3) misgivings  
as to our motives, should always prompt us  
to look to God for guidance..... Even  
when we do so no little care is needed to be  
sure that our interpretations of God's will  
are not BIASSED BY OUR OWN INCLINATIONS.

3-Jer. 24:25 - A fine example of people who set  
their face against God.....

4-1-Johanan and Jezaniah and all the people  
from the least to the greatest petitioned  
Jeremiah to pray to OUR Lord to see  
whether or not we should go into Egypt..

2-They bound themselves to a solemn oath  
to obey the Lord.

3-After ten days God through Jeremiah told  
them not to go to Egypt.. THEY WOULD NOT  
OBEY THE LORD.... THEY WANTED TO GO...

4-They accused Jerimiah of lying or speak-  
ing falsely.....

3-And so it to often is.....

1-Men ask God's directions, hoping that the  
answer will be in accordance with their  
wishes..... and do their best to twist it

2-into such accordance.....

2-But if this is impossible they act in bold  
defiance of the word of God.....

4-In seeking God's guidance, therefore, special  
care should be taken so to mortify our self-  
will that we may be ready to act upon the  
answer of God, however contrary it may be  
to the dictates of our own hearts.

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5-Regarding the ways in which a Christian can now "ask the Lord" concerning the course he should pursue on any particular occasion, we may say, following the analogy of the inquiries to which our text refers, **THAT---**

**- 1-That he may inquire or ask counsel of the Holy Scriptures.....**

1-He may seek light and truth from that word which is the expression of the mind and will of God.....

2-This answer must be sought in intelligent, prayerful study, and not as a matter of blind chance, or in the presumptuous expectation of a miraculous answer.....

3-The answer may be obtained from some eminent saint under similar circumstances....**AS**.....

1-Abraham giving up his right in order to avoid strife with Lot...Gen.13:8-9.

2-Elisha refusing Naaman's gift..2 Kings 5.

3-Job praising God in the extremity of his afflictions.....Job 1; 5.....

4-Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and 6 mo. And he prayed again and the heavens gave rain and the earth brought forth her fruit James 5:17-18.....

**- 2-A christian may inquire of the Lord by seeking the counsel of a wise and honest friend.....**

1-Nathan speaking to David.....**2-Sam.11; 12..**

2-Daniel reproving Nebuchadnezzar and also Belshazzar....Daniel 1;4 and also 5.....

**\* 3-God's guidance may be sought by simple prayer.**

1-Rebekah came while Abraham's servant prayed. Gen.24:15.....**2-The messengers of Cornelius came while Peter Prayed...Acts 10:17.**

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