

FIRST SEEK THE COUSEL OF THE LORD

“The king had said to his officials, “Don’t you know that Ramoth Gilead belongs to us and yet we are doing nothing to retake it from the king of Aram?” So he asked Je-hosha’a-phanat, “Will you go with me to fight against Ramoth Gilead? “Je-hosh’a-phanat replied, ‘I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” But Je-hosh’a-phanat also said, “First seek the counsel of the LORD.” “Is there not a prophet of the LORD here whom we can enquire of?” (1 Kings 22: 3-5, 7)

How many times have you calculated things to make wise decision, but thereafter still you fail? And you keep asking yourself, WHY? Some people say that ‘you did not get any good chance because it is not your luck.’ To those who are away from the Lord this reason is acceptable but to us, Christians who love the Living Word and the written words of God we say that you have forgotten something; In everything you do, “first seek the counsel of the Lord.”

King Solomon has shared to us this: **“I have seen something else under the sun: the race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise, or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happened to them all. Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare; so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them”. (Ecclesiastes 9:11-12)**

These scriptures are right though you may not agree. You are fast but you may reach last. You are strong but the battle you lose. You are wise but food you don’t find. You are brilliant but poor. You are learned and well-educated but no favour gained. You say, “this is not my time!” I agree with you because God has His own time for everything. But one thing you have forgotten to do, “first seek the counsel of the Lord”.

The passages for this week bring you into King Ahab’s life. You find him fell into the trap. He decided to wage war against the king of Aram to regain a city because of the following enticements:

1. His right: King Ahab wanted to take back Ramoth Gilead. He had the right because the city belonged to him. **“Don’t you know that Ramoth Gilead belongs to us and yet we are doing nothing to retake it from the king of Aram?”** Like king Ahab, you had decided to do something because you were pursuing your own rights and privileges.

2. His Allies: King Jehoshaphat agreed to help King Ahab **“So he asked Je-hosh’a-phanat, “will you go with me to fight against Ramoth Gilead? Je-hosh’a-phanat replied to the King, “I am as you are.”** You were encouraged to do one thing because somebody agreed with you that made you feel good and more powerful because you knew he would be supporting you. Did you not know that God is the most powerful ally you would have if you obey His will?

3. His resources: King Ahab was in abundance, especially when he received a bonus from another king, **“My people as your people, my horses as your horses”.** You were expecting victory because you were considering your own abilities and riches. But you could not boast because God is the Creator and owner of all things

(*Please read 1 Kings 22:1-38 from your own Bible)

This is a reminder: Enticements are highways leading to downfall and destruction. But the counsel of the Lord always leads to victory. Whether for small or big matters, whether in easy or difficult situation, whether for an important or less important issues, whether an urgent or minor time scale, in everything you do you have always to **“first seek the counsel of the Lord”.**

A) First seek: In making a decision, whatever you have: provision, right, logic, wisdom, etc., please put them all aside and ask counsel from God. The counsel of the Lord uncovers the unseen, and anything you lack you will just find under your hand. But the Lord will not give His counsel if you do not seek it. Not seeking God’s counsel means you do not believe that He is the Great and wonderful God who loves you so much. Otherwise, God may give His advice but you do not accept it, or rather you are unconscious about it. *“Seek and you will find.”*

B) The counsel of the Lord: Counsel is a wise advice: To seek counsel is to find wisdom. Seeking God’s counsel requires little effort but gives much gain. God’s counsel has the ability to change your life. The Lord’s counsel is a shield that keeps you safe. At times you seek counsel, but not the Lord’s. This is what King Ahab did. He asked for opinion or counsel from the 400 false prophets because he knew full well that they would agree with what he said. Is the situation like yours? You only ask advice from the people whom you know will agree with you. And these are the people who are under you, the people whom you have authority and power over, or the people who expect material blessing from you. They are like the 400 prophets of King Ahab. And they could be your wives, husbands, elders, children, or employees, your debtors, friends, relatives, or neighbours. Be aware of those 400 false prophets who may agree with you every word but give you the wrong counsel.

But the Lord is faithful. He will come and speak to you through the people around you and through the Bible. **“But Je-hosh’a-phanat asked, “Is there not a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?” The King answered Je-hosh’a-phanat, “There is still one through whom we can inquire of the Lord, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imalah.” “The King should not say that,” Je-hosh’a-phanat replied.” (King 22:7-8)** King Ahab did not like to listen to Micaiah because his words were never favourable to his ears although he spoke of God’s will. Have you also tried to avoid the right counsel because it hurt you? The prophet Micaiah told King Ahab that he would lose the battle and his life if he goes for war. But the King was drawn by his rights, his allies and his resources, and refused to listen to the counsel of the Lord. On the second day when the battle started, king Ahab was injured and died. His army lost the fight!

My Dear and Beloved: I was enticed, but the Lord is faithful, He sent Micaiah who spoke to me face to face. He gave his advice and although his counsel was painful to me I obeyed because it came from God. Prophet Micaiah should not be rejected because of his tough and harsh words. His words are heavy like a storm, but he will give you the counsel of the Lord. If you are about to make a decision, first seek the counsel of the Lord. God bless you!

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord give me more wisdom and humility so I can understand your will and walk in your ways. Lord put around me the right people who will give me the right advice and the precise council. Lord I put my heart in your hand, cleans me and fill me with your Holy Spirit and lead me in the way everlasting, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*