Joshua 24:28 (NIV) - Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.

The Promised Land is also a Problem Land.

Joshua 9:3-6 (NIV) - However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us."

The purpose of Moses' leadership was to bring the Israelites OUT!

The purpose of Joshua's leadership
was to bring the young Hebrew nation IN!

Joshua faced three problems in the Promised Land.

Jericho represents the world.
Ai represents the flesh.
Gibeon represents the evil.

I have often taken a pass, not a path, on all kinds of opportunities because I needed more time to consult with God. *(Isaiah 30:21, Psalm 32)*

Never make decisions in a hurry and don't rely on your own insights.

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV) - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Ruse: action or device meant to confuse or mislead. *(Joshua 9:3-4)*

How did the Gibeonites deceive Joshua?

Joshua 9:14-15 (NIV) - The Israelites sampled their provisions but **did not inquire of the Lord**. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

Consult God in everything.

Psalm 27:8 (TLB) - My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me, O my people." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."

Dear God,

I believe Jesus Christ died an atoning death to forgive my pile of sins. I confess that I have sinned, and I am asking for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus rose from the dead and gives eternal life to all who believe in Him. I surrender my life to Jesus Christ as my Savior and will follow Him as my Lord from this day forward. Guide and guard my life as I choose to do Your will.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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