

"KINGDOM CITIZENS"

Numbers 32:1-5, 16-22

Our scrip: A group of people want to do something different: Moses makes them face the issue of being a kingdom citizen.

I. PERSONAL DESIRES

A. Our story begins with personal desires

1. **Numbers 32:4-5** the country which the LORD defeated before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock." ⁵ Therefore they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan."

a. We would rather live on this side of the Jordan b. We don't want to live across the Jordan

c. We want a place of safety and blessing for our families

2. This is true for every person today

a. We want certain things in life: Money/recreation/security – ministry success/fruitfulness...

b. We prefer certain things in life: I would rather things be like...I would rather it be like this...

1. Personal Life/ministry/our church

B. Many people make decisions based solely on personal preferences & desires

1. They assume b/c they want it – it is of course the best option: Pride!

a. **Proverbs 26:12** Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

2. They sometimes act without thinking of anyone else: Rush off and make decisions/change things

3. They resent anyone contradicting their desires

II. KINGDOM RESPONSIBILITY

A. Moses speaks to them and brings in another perspective: Responsibility

1. **You are responsible to God:** He has an opinion – a will for your life that overarches all decisions!

a. What does God want? Some things are clearly spelled out in the word of God

b. But other things are not clearly spelled out with thou shall/thou shall not...

1. How will this affect the will of God/the purposes of God?

c. God takes this seriously: **Numbers 32:10** And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time, and he swore...

2. **You are responsible to other people:** **Numbers 32:6-7** 6 And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben: "Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here? 7 Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD has given them?"

a. You are a Kingdom citizen! You are connected to other people

b. What you do will affect other people:

1. You have no right to do damage to other people/other ministries/other churches

III. KINGDOM CITIZENS

A. I have always looked at the 2-1/2 tribes as negatives – refusing to have the full will of God

1. But there are things to commend them for...

B. They involved leadership in their life-altering decisions: Things that are different/outside the norm

1. **Numbers 32:2** the children of Gad/Reuben came & spoke to Moses/Eleazar the priest, & the leaders of the congregation

a. Before we do this: What do you think? Are there things I'm not seeing?

1. People who don't do that are either foolish – or rebellious; Deliberately don't ask

b. **Proverbs 24:6** For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

2. They made decisions based on what was best for the Kingdom

a. **Numbers 32:17-18** but we ourselves will be armed, ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place; and our little ones will dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. ¹⁸ We will not return to our homes until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance.

1. Surrendering their plans/preferences to the greater good

C. This has healthy results

1. **You remain blameless before God:** Nothing in your life that displeases God

a. **Numbers 32:22** ²² and the land is subdued before the LORD, then afterward you may return and be blameless before the LORD and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.

2. **You help other people:** **V18** We will not return to our homes until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance.

3. **You help your family:** Protection of God – and a good example for them to follow

4. **You enter your inheritance:** **V22** this land shall be your possession before the LORD.