

Numbers 32:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.

Analysis

They requested, 'let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.' This seemingly reasonable request actually proposed abandoning the main mission at the crucial moment. Seeking personal advantage when the community faces its greatest challenge constitutes betrayal. Moses' angry response (verses 6-15) showed he understood the request's serious implications.

Historical Context

Their request echoed the previous generation's refusal to enter Canaan (chapter 13-14). Moses explicitly made this connection (verses 7-13), recognizing that settling for less than God's promise, however practical it seemed, repeated the sin that cost that generation the Promised Land.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do seemingly practical decisions actually constitute lack of faith in God's promises?
2. What community missions are you tempted to abandon for personal advantage?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר ו	אִם	מָצָא אֲנוּ	חֵן	בְּעֵינֶי יְיָ	יֵתֵן	אֶת
Wherefore said	H518	they if we have found	grace	in thy sight	be given	H853
H559		H4672	H2580	H5869	H5414	
הָאָרֶץ	הַזֹּאת	לְעַבְדֵי יְיָ	לְאֻסְתָּהּ	אֵל		
let this land	H2063	unto thy servants	for a possession	H408		
H776		H5650	H272			
וְלֹא תַעֲבֹר נָא	אֶת	הַיַּרְדֵּן:				
and bring us not over	H853	Jordan				
H5674		H3383				

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