

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 יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים	אָמַת	מֵאָמֵן	בְּעֵינֶיךָ יְהוָה	אָתָּה יָתַן
Wherefore said	H518	they if we have found	grace	in thy sight be given
	H559		H2580	H5869
		H4672		H5414
לֹא תַּעֲבֹד	לֹא תַּעֲבֹד	לֹא תַּעֲבֹד	לֹא תַּעֲבֹד	לֹא תַּעֲבֹד
let this land	H2063	unto thy servants	for a possession	H408
	H776		H272	
וְלֹא תַּעֲבֹד	וְלֹא תַּעֲבֹד	וְלֹא תַּעֲבֹד	וְלֹא תַּעֲבֹד	וְלֹא תַּעֲבֹד
and bring us not over	H853	Jordan		
	H5674		H3383	

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