



QA: Why Is Social Media Dangerous? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

QUESTION: Why is there so much outcry about the dangers of social media (such as Facebook, Twitter a.k.a. X, Zoom, etc.)?

ANSWER: One reason is because it is so difficult, or impossible, to be certain of a stranger's claim. Please read **Joshua 9:1-27** and notice:

1. **V. 3-15 The Gibeonites presented a faked appearance, lied about their homeplace, falsely claimed to be "servants" and pleaded for peace when they were part of Israel's enemies!** On "social media" it is practically impossible to verify the personal claims, or picture (!) a stranger may present. It is especially sad to learn of someone who has only communicated on "social media," who leaves home and family to meet that stranger! Because strangers may be lying like the Devil to our face, friendships are best made with those who are "face to face."

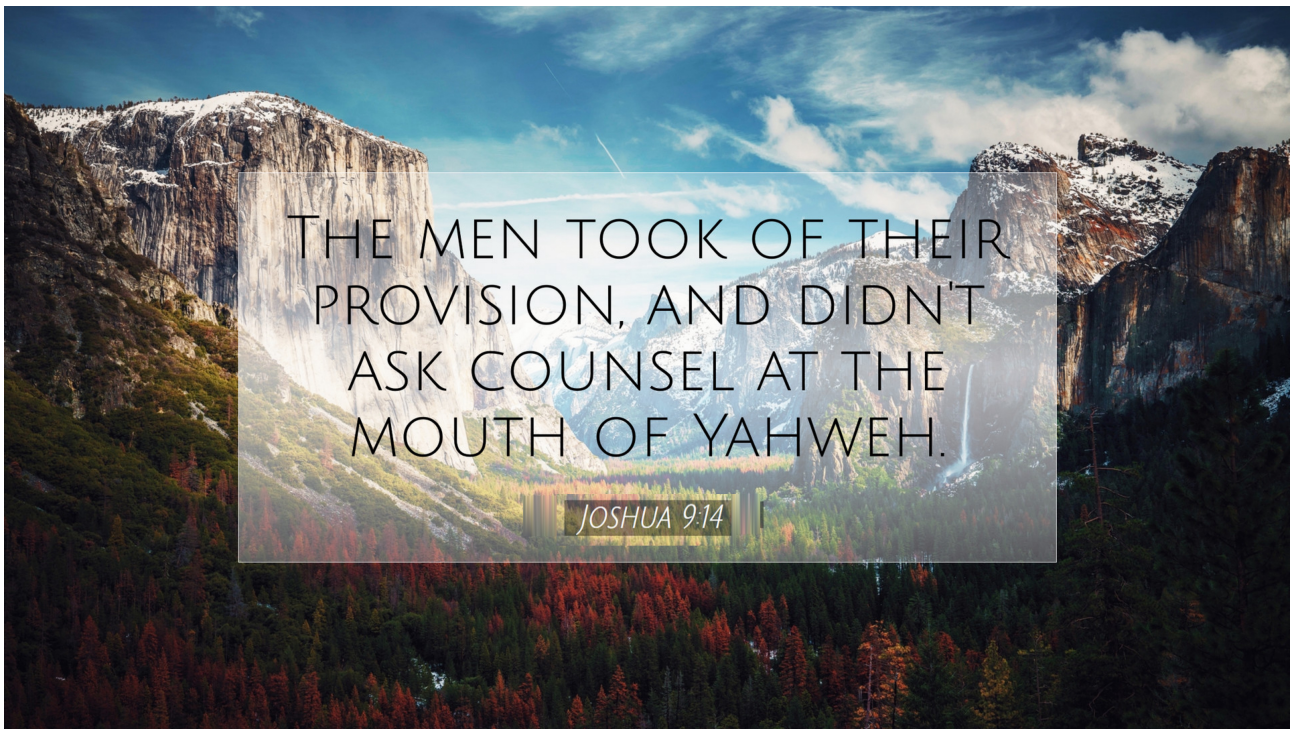
Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. (**2 John 12**)

"Neighbor" means "those who live closest," thus friendships should begin with our own family, then those living in our community. "Covenants" a.k.a. "contracts" should very cautiously be entered into with "strangers."

2. **V. 14-16 Before consulting God's Word** ("He who is surety for a stranger will suffer, But one who hates being surety is secure" **Proverbs 11:15**), **Joshua and "the rulers of the congregation," "made peace with them," promising "to let them live."** When the truth was revealed (that they were actually living close by, and thus part of those to be destroyed, **Joshua 9:22**), it was too late. The Israelites, bound by their loyalty to God, kept their part of that covenant (**Joshua 9:17-19**). According to Jesus,

"[Christians as] sheep will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." (**John 10:5**)

Meeting, mingling, marrying, or "merging" with someone you don't really know is never good! Promises made in ignorance may have serious consequences! Learn all you can before entering into agreements! (This also applies to all "charities," "causes," "good works" receiving donations!)



3. **V. 17-27** The Israelites simply held the Gibeonites to their word, “We are your servants” (**Joshua 9:8**), and made them agree to be just that, “woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them” (**Joshua 9:21**).

“Social media” may not be completely responsible for bad decisions or agreements people make, but rather the lack of diligence in determining the whole truth.

— jtp11, February 4, 2024