

## A Major Misunderstanding – Joshua 20:1-22:34

---

**An altar of witness was constructed by the tribes east of the Jordan River which appeared to be an act of wicked idolatry to the others tribes west of the Jordan.**

**The western tribes prepared to crush this idolatry but first they wisely sent a delegation to investigate the situation.**

**A potentially disastrous misunderstanding was resolved when the eastern tribes explained that the altar was a replica of the altar of the LORD to serve as a witness to the generations to come that the tribes east of the Jordan also worship the LORD and belong to the people of God.**

### **Questions for Discussion & Application**

1. What questions do you have about today's passage and message?
2. Have your words or intentions ever been misunderstood? Have you ever misunderstood the words and actions of another? Why does this sometimes happen?
3. What wisdom do we see in this passage for how we should respond to situations where a misunderstanding might be possible?
4. In a potential misunderstanding among fellow Christians, why should we always assume the best of one another? (See I Corinthians 13:7.)
5. Why should we gather up the facts instead of passing judgment about another believer based upon a suspicion or rumors? How will this pattern help to preserve the unity of Jesus' Church?
6. In today's passage, the unity of the nation of Israel was preserved by good communication that resolved a misunderstanding. How does this challenge you to act in ways that will also protect the unity of Jesus' church? (See Matthew 18:15-17.)