

Avoiding Consequences

1 Kings 22:1-8, 13-37, 41-44

In this story Ahab tried to avoid the consequences that Micaiah prophesied. First, he tried to stop Micaiah from coming to his court. He suspected that the prophet would bring him bad news. Then, when he was warned that he would die or be captured in battle if he went ahead with the attack, he tried to disguise himself to remain safe.

People often try to avoid the consequences of their bad choices. We usually know when we have done something wrong, but we often look for ways to get out of what follows, whether it is a promised punishment as in Ahab's case, or a natural consequence, such as poor grades for not studying. It takes courage to admit to a mistake and accept its consequences without making excuses or lying to get out of it.

Look at the scenarios below and write of a most courageous way that each person might handle the problem.

1. Helen's teacher caught her cheating on a test. She knows that she will receive a zero and her parents will be called. What should she do?
2. John told his parents that he was going to Paul's house for dinner. But he was really going to the mall with his other friends. Paul gave John away when his parents phoned Paul's house to talk to John. John knows he will be in big trouble—what should he do?
3. Stacey lost her mobile phone (the second one in less than a year). She knows she will have to work to pay for it. What should she do?
4. Greg's parents do not want him to watch a certain TV show. He is by himself in the family room, watching TV while his parents have friends over. The show comes on, and he decides to watch it. His sister walks in on him and threatens to tell their parents. What should Greg do?