

whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So, we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this.”

****Joshua 9:25** “We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you.”

****Joshua 9:26** “So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them.”

****Joshua 9:27** “That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly, to provide for the needs of the altar of the Lord at the place the Lord would choose. And that is what they are to this day.”

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. Do not make decisions based solely on how things appear.

James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to Him.”

B. Do not make decisions based solely on what sounds good.

Romans 16:17 “I urge you, brothers, watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned.^[18] For such people are NOT serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they deceive the minds of naïve people.”

Colossians 2:4 “I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.”

C. Make your decisions based on God’s Word and prayer.

- Will my decision violate God’s Word?
- Have I prayed about this decision?
- Have I sought Godly counsel?

Proverbs 15:22 “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

- Am I rushing this decision?

Proverbs 14:8 “The wisdom of a prudent is to give thought to their ways.”

Psalms 130:5 “I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word, I put my hope.”

The Scam Joshua 9:1-35 Lesson #14 1/5/25

****Joshua 9:1** “Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things—the kings in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites)—

****Joshua 9:2** “They came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel.”

I. The Gibeonites planned for a peace treaty!

A. The Gibeonites chose to deceive.

Joshua 9:3 “However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai.”

Joshua 9:4a “They resorted to a ruse:”

Deuteronomy 20:17 “Completely destroy them – the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites – as the LORD your God has commanded you.”

Deuteronomy 20:18 “Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshipping their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God.”

B. The Gibeonites collected their props.

Joshua 9:4b “... They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended.”

Joshua 9:5 “They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy.”

II. The Gibeonites proposed their peace plan.

A. They recited their speaking parts.

1. They lied about where they lived.

****Joshua 9:6** “Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”

****Joshua 9:7** “The Israelites said to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live near us, so how can we make a treaty with you?”

2. They lied about who they were.

****Joshua 9:8** “We are your servants,” they said to Joshua. But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?”

3. They lied about why they took a trip.

****Joshua 9:9** “They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the Lord your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt.”

****Joshua 9:10** “And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan—Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.”

B. They revealed their possessions.

****Joshua 9:11** “And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, ‘Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; make a treaty with us.”’

****Joshua 9:12** “This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and moldy it is.”

****Joshua 9:13** “And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.”

III. The Jews did not pray about this peace plan.

A. They made a decision based on sight.

****Joshua 9:14a** “The Israelites sampled their provisions”

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

1 Samuel 16:7 “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance but the LORD looks at the heart.”

2 Thessalonians 2:9 “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders ^[10] And in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.”

B. They made a decision without seeking the Lord.

****Joshua 9:14b** “... but did not inquire of the Lord.”

C. They made a decision that did not synchronize with God’s will.

Deuteronomy 7:1 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – the Hittites, Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and

Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you –

Deuteronomy 7:2 “And when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, show them no mercy.” (See Exodus 34:12).

****Joshua 9:15** “Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.”

IV. The truth was presented concerning the Gibeonites.

A. The Jews discovered the truth about the Gibeonites.

****Joshua 9:16** “Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbors, living near them.”

Proverbs 12:19 “A lying tongue lasts only a moment.”

B. This discovery divided the people.

****Joshua 9:17** “So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim.”

****Joshua 9:18** “But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the Lord, the God of Israel. The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders.”

****Joshua 9:19** “But all the leaders answered, “We have given them our oath by the Lord, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now.”

****Joshua 9:20** “This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that God’s wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them.”

C. Joshua delegated responsibilities to the Gibeonites.

****Joshua 9:21** “They continued, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers in the service of the whole assembly.” So, the leaders’ promise to them was kept.”

****Joshua 9:22** “Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, “Why did you deceive us by saying, ‘We live a long way from you,’ while actually you live near us?”

****Joshua 9:23** “You are now under a curse: You will never be released from service as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”

****Joshua 9:24** “They answered Joshua, “Your servants were clearly told how the Lord your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the