

Joshua 9

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Appearances can be deceiving! How many times have you been guilty of wrongly judging a situation by what you observed? We must recognize that our vision is finite and can be deceptive. No wonder the Bible instructs: *commit your way to the LORD; wait on the LORD; and seek the LORD*. God sees the end from the beginning, the hearts of men, and all the happenings of the world.

Deception is exactly what we observe in Joshua 9. One would suppose that Israel would have learned from their failure with Ai. Yet once again, they trusted in their own perception, *they did not ask the counsel of the LORD*.

Let this event serve as a cautionary tale for all of us. It is vital to our spiritual, physical, and mental well-being to seek God's counsel in every situation life presents.

Ask the Lord to help you to continually seek His counsel.

SECOND DAY: Read Joshua 9:1–6

1. *All the kings who were on this side of the Jordan* heard about Israel's victory over Ai. From Joshua 9:1, cite the names of those who *heard about* Israel's victory.

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- a. What had these kings *gathered together* to do? Joshua 9:2
 - (1) Why do you think they did this?
2. Unlike the other kingdoms in Canaan, what did the *Gibeonites* decide to do? Joshua 9:3–4a
 - a. What news prompted their action? Joshua 9:3
 - b. Use Joshua 9:4–5 to describe how *they worked craftily*.
3. What further action did the Gibeonites take? Joshua 9:6
 - a. The word *covenant* is the Hebrew word *berith* and it is the same word used for God's covenant with Israel. What does this convey about the seriousness of the Gibeonite's request?
4. What is your impression of the Gibeonites?

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2. After hearing the Gibeonites' explanation, the *men of Israel took some of their provisions*. However, what did they **not** do? Joshua 9:14

a. Why was this unwise?

(1) How is this a warning to you?

b. What do you think would have been the right course of action?

3. Because the Gibeonites deceived him, what did Joshua do? Joshua 9:15

a. Read Exodus 34:11–12 and remark on Joshua's decision.

4. Using what you've studied today, and also drawing from your own life, share why it is essential to *seek counsel* from the Lord.

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 9:16–21

1. Use Joshua 9:16–18 to answer the following:
 - a. What happened after the leaders of Israel *made a covenant with them*? (verse 16)
 - (1) Gibeon was a kingdom just north of Jerusalem, only a few hours walk from the camp of Israel. How would this have intensified Israel's dismay?
 - b. What did *the children of Israel* do in response? (verse 17)
 - c. When they arrived, *the children of Israel did not attack*. Why could they **not** do this? (verse 18a)
 - d. How did *the congregation* react? (verse 18b)
 - (1) Why do you think their reaction was justified?
2. The *rulers* declared the ramifications of *the oath* to the people in Joshua 9:19–21. From these verses, note and comment on:
 - a. The *oath* (verse 19)

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b. The resolve (verse 20a)

c. The consequences of *the oath* (verse 20b)

(1) King Saul later broke this oath to the Gibeonites. Read 2 Samuel 21:1 to remark on how this brought *wrath* upon Israel.

d. The outcome (verse 21)

(1) What does this convey to you about the seriousness of Israel's covenants?

(2) Link this with Psalm 15:4b and share your thoughts.

3. Use Ephesians 2:12–14 and Hebrews 8:6 to describe the covenant God has made with you through Christ Jesus.
 - a. Consider for a moment how God honors His covenant with you. Express a way this ministers to you.

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 9:22–27

1. Summarize Joshua's rebuke as he dealt with the Gibeonites' deception. Joshua 9:22
 - a. Why do you think it was unwise for Joshua to put all the blame on the Gibeonites?

2. Describe the resulting curse for the Gibeonites' deception. Joshua 9:23
 - a. Record and remark on where they were to serve.

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3. From the Gibeonites' response in Joshua 9:24–25, note and comment on what they acknowledged about:

a. God (verse 24a)

b. The Israelites (verse 24b)

c. Their submission (verse 25)

(1) How does this showcase the Gibeonites' faith?

4. As a result of this agreement, what two things did Joshua do:

a. Joshua 9:26

b. Joshua 9:27

(1) How did God use this situation to highlight His mercy and grace?

5. Note any similarities you see between yourself and the Gibeonites.

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3. The Gibeonites became servants at the house of God, as Joshua commanded, and eventually were assimilated into Israel. Use the following Scriptures to note the Gibeonites' role in Israel's history:

a. 1 Chronicles 12:4–5

b. Nehemiah 3:7

c. Nehemiah 7:6, 25

(1) How do you see God's redemption despite Israel's failure?

(2) Share a time when God redeemed a failure in your life.