

Life Lessons from Joshua 9-24

JOSHUA 9: IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM ... (Joshua 9: 3-18)

- How might we react if we were found guilty of Joshua's "sin?"
("It's not fair!", "I didn't know!")

→ illustration: not getting your power bill ... are you responsible to pay?

- What was Israel's sin? (v.14) NOT INQUIRING OF THE LORD
- Was Israel "really" fooled?
 - What was Joshua's initial attitude toward the Gibeonite delegation? SUSPICION
 - How did Israel satisfy their doubts? They SAMPLED THE PROVISIONS

LESSONS LEARNED

Have you ever made a big decision without "inquiring of the Lord?"
> What were the results?

Was Israel wrong to inspect the delegation's provisions? NO
> We should do OUR HOMEWORK *and* SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION

JOSHUA 10: THE BEAUTY IS IN THE DETAILS!

- After the Gibeonite treaty, the Amorite kings joined forces to fight Israel. In one of the more famous miracles of the OT, Joshua's prayers were answered when the sun stood still for a full day (10:13-14) and Israel destroyed the Amorites! However, one of the most important lessons from this episode is often overlooked!
 - ❖ After routing the armies, Israel trapped the 5 kings in a cave.
 - ❖ What did Israel do with these kings? (10:26-27)
 - ❖ What is the significance of these actions? (Deut. 21:22-23)
 - Hanging on a tree was a PUBLIC STATEMENT, but to God it was a CURSE.
 - *In the Roman empire, it was common to see rows of crucifixions entering a city!*
 - By BURYING the kings, Joshua showed attention to DETAIL.

LESSON LEARNED

> God seeks obedience, even when it CONTRADICTS CULTURE!

> God seeks obedience, even in THE SMALL THINGS
-- This may seem obvious, but do we sometimes ignore the details?
-- ex: "A LITTLE WHITE LIE"

When Israel finished off the Amorites, they turned north, and in an anticlimactic series of battles, Israel completely (and obediently) destroyed everyone they encountered. After Israel finishes the conquest, the book of Joshua turns to a description of the dividing of the land to the 12 tribes – not necessarily exciting reading. However, there are some important lessons to learn!

GIVE ME LAND, LOTS 'O LAND!

- Every tribe received an allotment of land except for the LEVITES! (Chps. 15 – 21)
 - Instead, they received CITIES out of every tribe's allotment. Why?
 - Levites (priests) were needed to minister to ALL OF ISRAEL.
 - The sustenance of the Levites depended on the FAITHFULNESS of the Israelites.
 - Ex: What happens to the minister if the people don't tithe?

CIVIL WAR IN ISRAEL?? (22:1-5,9-12, 15-16, 21-31)

- What caused Israel to want to fight the 2½ tribes on the west side of the Jordan?
- How did the 2½ tribes avert war?

LESSON LEARNED

- > Christians need to HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE! (James 5:16; 2 Timothy 3:16)
- > Notice how violent Israel is in dealing with “sinners” among them (Achan). What does this tell us about dealing with other's sin? **{it's not easy; it's war; it can break up friendships, etc.}**

AN EASY DECISION!! (Chp.24)

- “If serving the Lord seems undesirable ...” (vv.14)
 - What are the choices?
 - Gods of Egypt
 - Gods of the Amorites
 - Yahweh
 - > Consider what Israel had just experienced when Yahweh “fought” against the other gods!
 - > You can't REJECT Jesus without CHOOSING someone else. How can this concept impact our evangelism?

- “As for me and my house ...” (vv.15)
 - Culturally, what was the significance of the head of a household making a spiritual decision?
 - (See Acts 16:30-34)
 - What does this mean for today?
 - Ex: Should we let our kids choose whether they want to come to church?
 - > We can't make them believe, but we can present what it means to believe (a demonstration of faith) – (Prob.22:6)

The Gibeonites after Joshua 9

- a. The Gibeonites became servants at the tabernacle, just as Joshua had commanded.
- b. Gibeon becomes a priestly city; the Ark of the Covenant stayed at Gibeon often in the days of David and Solomon (1 Chronicles 16:39-40 and 21:29).
- c. At least one of David's *mighty men* was a Gibeonite (1 Chronicles 12:4).
- d. God spoke to Solomon at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:4).
- e. Gibeonites were among those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem with Nehemiah (Neh. 3:7 and 7:25).

*These are examples of the great things God can do with people who are sinners,
but come to Him in humility and love.*