

Joshua 9:1-27 “Allied Enemies” (2/18/2024)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Joshua 9:1-27

1. What did the LORD command the Israelites and why in Deuteronomy 7:1-4? Give the exception found in Deuteronomy 20:10-11.
2. Share your thoughts about the cunningness of the Gibeonites? Do you blame them?
3. The Gibeonites pretended to come “because of the name of the LORD your God” (9:9). Have you ever been fooled by someone’s testimony? How did you realize it was false?

4. "Now it was not that Joshua and the elders did not ask the right questions; they were suspicious at just the right points (vv. 7-8). It was not that they were sloppy in their investigation but that they were alone in their decision. It wasn't that they didn't think but that they didn't pray. They did not have because they did not ask (James 4:2)."

(Joshua: No Falling Words a Focus on the Bible Series p. 79 by Dale Ralph Davis)

Do you agree with Davis's assessment of Joshua and the elders. Explain.

5. Joshua took the situation with the Gibeonites at face value and "did not ask counsel from the LORD" (9:14). When are you most tempted to handle things on your own rather than to seek wisdom and pray? Do you need the wisdom of God only when you are in doubt?

6. Do you find a redemptive value in this story concerning the Gibeonites (they were counted among the Israelites who rebuilt the temple when returning from exile in Nehemiah 3:1-2, 7; Nehemiah 7:25; and Psalm 84:10)? How does this encourage you to reach out to the lost?