

JOSHUA: *presence. courage. action.*

Something Wicked This Way Comes - Joshua 9:1-27

April 9, 2017

So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them... - **Joshua 9:14-15**

I. A COALITION GATHERS (vss. 1-2)

- The Canaanite kingdoms gather forces to face the threat of Israel. The fortress cities of Jericho and Ai are lost, and the royal city of Gibeon has gone over to the enemy.
- Since the Fall, the world has forever been in battle formation against its Creator (Psalm 2; Eph. 2:1-3).

II. THE GIBEONITE DECEPTION (vss. 3-15)

- Like Rahab, the Gibeonites have heard of the LORD's fame, and they resort to a ruse to save themselves. They choose God over familial and earthly relations (Josh. 2:8-14; Luke 14:26).
- The ruse worked because: 1) Israel was gullible and overconfident and, 2) Joshua and the leaders did not consult the LORD (vs. 14). Sound familiar?
- Since the treaty was made in God's Name, Israel must now honor it. Sin has consequences, and sometimes they last a lifetime - even for believers (1 Sam. 13:8-15; 15:22; 2 Sam. 12:11-14; Prov. 16:25; Matt. 27:3-5).
- Common sense does not always equal Biblical sense (Matt. 20:25-27; Mark 8:35-38).

III. THE AFTERMATH (vss. 16-27)

- The Israelite assembly grumbles against its leaders, but the treaty has been struck (vss. 16-21).
- Israel tries to intimidate Gibeon, but they know the rules of treaties. They will become servants to Israel, but they will be spared (vss. 17; 22-27).
- God turns sin into grace. Like Rahab, the Gibeonites will be part of the people of Israel forevermore (Josh. 10:2-7; 2 Sam. 21:1; John 21:15-19).

KNOW: When we do not inquire of the Lord, and we take matters into our own hands, we set ourselves up for failure. God calls us to obey, not make judgment calls on clear boundaries.

DO: Guard yourself against sin. Learn to live with its consequences.

Recommended Reading:

The Mortification of Sin, by John Owen (LifePoint Library #241.3 OWE)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Joshua chapter 9.

1. What was the rationale for the Gibeonites to surrender themselves to the Israelites? Why did they do it?
2. Seems like a simple trick. Talk a bit about why it was successful (talk about vs. 14).
3. We talked Sunday about the deceptiveness of sin. Why is it so seductive and tempting?
4. Why did Israel go ahead and honor the treaty, even though it was based on a lie?
5. What was the overall outcome for the Gibeonites?
6. What steps must we take as Christ-followers to guard against sin in our own lives?