

Joshua 9: A Ruse that leads to Regret

Getting started: What policies or procedures do you have in place to keep you from making an ill-timed or ill-advised decision?

Read vv. 1-5 Plans for Survival

1. When the nations in Canaan heard of the victories at Jericho and Ai, what did they plan together to do? (vv. 1-2) How did the Gibeonite plan differ? (v. 3-5)
2. Name the steps Gibeon took to “sell” the fact that they were from a far country.

Read vv. 6-15 Making a Covenant

3. When the Gibeonites arrived at Israel’s camp, what did they ask Joshua and the leadership for? (v. 6) Why was the leadership apprehensive? (v. 7)
4. When the visitors were asked point blank who they were and where they were from, what diversionary tactic(s) did they employ? (vv. 8-10)

5. When they sensed hesitation from Israel’s leadership, what did the Gibeonites do to win their favor? (vv. 11-13) What did Israel’s leaders do? What did they fail to do? (v. 14)
6. With the support of Israel’s leaders, what did Joshua decide to do? How did the leaders express their consent with the decision? (v. 15)

Read vv. 16-27 Discovery of Deception

7. How long did it take to learn that the Gibeonites were actually neighbors? What was Israel’s immediate response? Why did Israel not kill their enemies for their deception? (vv. 16-18)
8. Why did the congregation complain against their leaders? What were the leaders now obligated to do? What might this suggest about God when we give our word? (vv. 18b-19; c.f. Psalm 15:4b)
9. How did the leaders decide to treat the Gibeonites from that point forward? (vv. 20-23) What was the response of the Gibeonites to that decision (v. 25) Had you been with Israel on the day they confronted the Gibeonites, what might you have been tempted to do? (vv. 26-27) What kept Israel in check?