

A DEEPER DIVE

June 7, 2026
Joshua 9:13-27

Prayer Focus– Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading – Joshua 9:13-14

Consider this – Seeking the Lord.

Before the rout that Israel suffered in the first battle of Ai, there is no mention of Joshua seeking the Lord's instruction. If he had, maybe he would have heard of Achan's treachery and the rout would have been averted. Here, in verse 14, after taking many precautions, what is the one thing that the Israelites forgot or failed to do? Joshua through this book is shown to be a devout and God-fearing man. Why do you suppose he didn't learn the lesson? In the book, *Bearing God's Name*, author Carmen Imes says that Jesus, "condemns the Pharisees and scribes... [because] they walk around wearing official religious titles, but their hearts are haughty and self-reliant." It seems to me that in our affluent modern society, with all of its conveniences and tech, it is very easy to fall into the trap of haughty self-reliance. How do you recognize this and guard against it in your life?

Tuesday: Reading – Joshua 9:15-18

Consider this – The truth comes out.

Joshua considers the claim of the Gibeonites and decides it is legit. He makes a treaty with them which is then ratified by the leaders. Verse 15 says that it was "ratified by oath." What do you think that means? What happens three days later? What do the leaders decide not to do which makes the people grumble against them? One of the ways the Gibeonites were able to fool Joshua and the Israelites was that they made everything look old and worn—how things would look if they actually were coming in from a long journey. They had to do these things in real time. Today, with the advent of social media, internet memes created by bots, and, most concerning, AI and the advent of deep fakes. How can the church protect itself, and you as a follower of Christ protect yourself against being taken in by these modern Gibeonites?

Wednesday: Reading – Joshua 9:19-21

Consider this – An oath is an oath

When the people grumble, what do the leaders say in response? What are the leaders afraid of if they attack the Gibeonites? What role will the Gibeonites have within the Israelite society? If Satan is real, and if he is trying to oppose God on every front, what compromise is he trying to lead you into? Is it being "tolerant"? Is it thinking that grasping political power is a way to glorify God? Is it being more worried about being progressive than honoring God and following the scriptures? Is it in accepting political parties and political actors no matter what they say or do?

Thursday: Reading – Joshua 9:22-23

Consider this – Judgement is pronounced

What does Joshua say to the Gibeonites? Do you think this was a fair trade for them? Their choice was to align with the other kings and go to war, or trick the Israelites and make a treaty. So, death in battle or a life of servitude—which is worse? Davis notes that Joshua and the elders asked the right questions; they were suspicious about the story they were hearing; they weren't sloppy in their investigation. "It wasn't that they didn't think, but that they didn't pray. They did not have because they did not ask."

Friday: Reading– Joshua 9:24-27

Consider this – We are your servants.

What did the Gibeonites tell Joshua when he asked them why they did what they did? What did they tell Joshua about how he should treat them? Why do you think they didn't beg for mercy? In looking at this whole situation in this section, Davis concludes by saying, We must beware of that subtle unbelief that assumes, 'I have this under control.'"

Saturday: Reading – Joshua 9:1-27

Consider this – Keep your guard up

Wiersbe has this warning for modern readers, "What Jericho could not do with walls, or Ai with weapons, the Gibeonites accomplished with deceit. Satan tries one device after another to defeat God's people, and we must constantly be on guard. Note that it is usually after a great victory that Satan begins his subtle attacks. It was after the victory at Jericho that Israel was defeated by Ai, and it was after Israel's defeat of Ai that Joshua was deceived by Gibeon. We must beware of 'judging after the flesh' (John 8:15) and depending on our own wisdom (Proverbs 3:5-6). James 1:5 promises that God will give us wisdom if we ask for it. Christians must beware of worldly alliances (2 Cor. 6:14-18)." Judge everything through the Word of God, seek wisdom, and prayerfully lift up all things to Christ.

From the Henri Nouwen Society–

The world says, "When you were young you were dependent and could not go where you wanted, but when you grow old you will be able to make your own decisions, go your own way, and control your own destiny." But Jesus has a different version of maturity: It is the ability and willingness to be led where you would rather not go. Immediately after Peter has been commissioned to be a leader of his sheep, Jesus confronts him with the hard truth that the servant-leader is the leader who is being led to unknown, undesirable, and painful places. The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility in which our world has invested so much, but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross. This might sound morbid and masochistic, but for those who have heard the voice of the first love and said, "yes" to it, the downward-moving way of Jesus is the way to the joy and the peace of God, a joy and peace that is not of this world.

Sunday- Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.