

010619 Growth Group Study

Conned Into A Covenant

Joshua 9



1. Discussion around most recent sermon

- a. **Date:** 01/06/19
- b. **Series:** Joshua
- c. **Title:** Conned Into A Covenant
- d. **Text:** Joshua 9
- e. **Preacher:** Ryan Hinn
- f. **Sermon Text**

1 As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, 2 they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel.

3 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, 4 they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, 5 with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. 6 And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us." 7 But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?" 8 They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?" 9 They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt, 10 and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth. 11 So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, "We are your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us."' 12 Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly. 13 These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey." 14 So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. 15 And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

16 At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them. 17 And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. 18 But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders. 19 But all the leaders said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them. 20 This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them." 21 And the leaders said to them, "Let them live." So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

22 Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, "Why did you deceive us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell among us? 23 Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God." 24 They answered Joshua, "Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you—so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing. 25 And now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it." 26 So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them. 27 But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

2. Discussion Questions

a. Preparation

Background: Before Israel continues on in their conquest of Canaan, they find themselves being deceived by the Gibeonites into entering a covenant because they failed to pause and seek the Lord's guidance. Much like Rahab in chapter 2, the Gibeonites had heard of all the Lord had done, but unlike Rahab who made a confession of faith, the Gibeonites used deception to avoid death.

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
2. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
3. What questions did you come away with from the sermon?

b. Sermon questions (Pick 3)

1. Ryan said that hearing from the Lord trumps all other sensory input. As you look forward to 2019, where do you need to hear from the Lord?
2. What "allures" you in your life which "cons" you into walking away from the Lord? (Ryan gave some typical attractions in our culture: glitz, glammer, money, grades, colleges, high paying jobs.) Explain. Moving forward, what can you practically do to fight this temptation?
3. "Prayer is the disciplined refusal to act before God acts." Eugene Peterson. Is prayer a regular discipline for you? If not, as you look

forward to 2019, how can you make prayer a regular part of your daily routine? Explain. Some options may include –

- i. Praying the Lord’s Prayer on a daily basis.
 - ii. Praying through a Psalm everyday.
 - iii. Purchasing a prayer “book” or journal to enter into everyday (if you need ideas, see Shawn for different options).
 - iv. For men: From the men’s retreat, writing fat prayers, short prayers or vivid prayers.
4. Ryan spoke of the character of God as being *“merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, z keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin”* (Ex 34:6). This is good news! Which part of these verses speaks to you most? Why? How does that affect how you live your life? (Some ideas might be: moving out of fear, moving into freedom, a desire to trust him more, etc.)
5. Communion: Our new reality is “let them live” through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We live as beloved children, receiving life and life eternal through his sacrifice (John 3:16; John 10:10, etc). This is good news as well! How does this good news affect how you take communion? How does this good news affect how you live your life?

c. For Further Reflection

1. Communion is the powerful heartbeat of the church. Consider what communion means to you. Can you articulate it in a few sentences?
2. One writer has said that “believers can grow most deeply in the life of the Spirit precisely through sacramental celebrations” (Veli-Matti Karkkainen). Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?