

## EMBRACING CHANGE

"It's Your Choice"

### Joshua 9

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. **Joshua 9 is a paramount chapter.** What happens here affects Israel for the rest of their history.
2. **REMEMBER THIS:** The decision made in Joshua 9 is not a rebellious decision, but made thinking all would be well.
3. **HERE IT IS:** The decision by Joshua on behalf of Israel was a negligent decision!!!
  - a) **AND** they will have to live with the consequences of their decision!!!
4. **LISTEN UP:** When we make negligent choices we will have to live with them.
5. **Joshua 8:30-35** read
6. **Deuteronomy 7:1-11**
7. **Deuteronomy 20:10-15**
8. **FACT:** God's people can be deceived!!!
9. **Joshua 9:1-2**
  - a) "**heard of this**" - heard of what?
    - 1) What Israel has been doing to the enemies of their God.
    - 2) Jericho, Ai
    - 3) **8:30-35**
10. **Vs 3** (Defection)
11. **The Gibeonites were shrewd!!**
  - a) Perhaps fearful of annihilation.
  - b) Perhaps this was the only way they could make peace with the True God.
12. **Luke 16:8**

**THREE REASONS WE ARE DECEIVED AND THEREFORE MAKE BAD CHOICES.**

## I. FIRST - WE CAN BE DECEIVED WHEN WE DON'T EMPLOY GODLY WISDOM

### 1. Notice the deception:

a) First is the deception of the eyes.

1. Vs 4-5

b) Secondly is the deception of the ears

1. Vs 6

2. Notice the lack of wisdom here: Vs 7-8

3. Vs 9-10

a) "*all he did in Egypt*" - old information

4. Vs 8-9

a) "*we are your servants*"

## II. SECOND - WE CAN BE DECEIVED WHEN WE DON'T EMPLOY DISCERNMENT

1. Discernment is the ability to perceive or see something, to just sense something.

2. Vs 9-10

3. *Matthew 10:16*

4. **WARNING:** Be careful of the relationships you make.

5. *Philippians 1:8-11*

6. Building wrong relationships can cost us for years.

## III. FINALLY - WE CAN BE DECEIVED WHEN WE DON'T ENGAGE IN PRAYER

1. Vs 11-14

2. Vs 14     Key Verse

3. There is a pattern developing here in Joshua - PRAYERLESSNESS

4. **We think we have it all under control!!!**

a) *Israel defeated Jericho*

1) Didn't need to pray about Ai

b) **Suffered defeat at Ai** (lost 36 men)

1) Got right with God and won a huge victory

c) **Huge Worship Service @ Mt Ebal and Mt Gerazim**

1) Were deceived by the Gibeonites

5. **Very Important!!!** Joshua wasn't wicked - he was prayerless.

6. **James 1:5**

7. Jim Collins the writer of the very popular book "Good to Great" also wrote "How the Mighty Fall"

a) ***"Whether you prevail or fail, endure or die, depends more on what you do, to yourself, than what the world does to you."***

**CONCLUSION:**

**THE REASON SO MANY PEOPLE ARE FAILING IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS BECAUSE OF THE DECISIONS THEY ARE MAKING**