

BEING TO FRIENDLY WITH THE ENEMY JOSHUA 9

Text: Joshua 9:15

Introduction:

The people of Israel have just defeated the city of Ai and are preparing to march deeper into Canaan as they claim the promised land which the Lord had given to them. As I said, they are fresh from a victory. In fact, they now have a couple of impressive victories under their belts. They have seen the great walled city of Jericho defeated and they have witnessed the pesky little town of Ai defeated too. However, before they will ever see another victory, Israel must learn a valuable lesson about becoming too friendly with the enemy.

In the battles and stories related to Israel's conquest of Canaan, we can see a picture of our lives as children of God as we struggle to obtain the victory in our lives. As I look at the Bible's record of these events, it is not too hard for me to see the parallels between the battles Israel fought in the flesh and the ones which we fight in the spirit. In fact, these cities that they have faced all teach us a spiritual lesson.

1. Jericho - A type of the world - It was defeated, and we have the promise of victory over the world in our walk with the Lord Jesus, 1 John 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

2. Ai - A type of the flesh - It, too, was defeated, and we have the promise of victory in the flesh as we battle for the Lord Jesus, Romans 7:24-25, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

3. Gibeon - A type of the devil - This is a battle that still must be fought. However, we have been promised victory in this area as well. To obtain it, we must trust the Lord Jesus Christ and walk in His will day by day. He can be defeated - James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Eventually, the devil will get exactly what he deserves! Rev. 20:1-10.

However, today, we must still contend with him. Fortunately, the Lord has not left us without a word in this matter. In this passage, that recounts Israel's experience with the people of Gibeon, we can see a portrait of the devil and his devices. As we will see, there is a danger in becoming friendly with the enemy. That is the thought that I would like to preach on.

1. THE ENEMY CAN BE DECEPTIVE (VSS 1-13)

(III. Note verses 1-2. When all the kings of Canaan heard what had happened to Ai and to Jericho, they joined forces to seek to defeat Israel. Isn't it amazing how the devil's crowd will join up to fight God's people? Just look at the way Jesus was treated by His enemies. The Pharisees and the Herodians hated one another, but they came together in the common effort of seeing Jesus put to death. Another friendship that was formed over the death of our Lord was that which was formed between Herod Antipas and Pontius Pilate. We are still seeing these same kind of alliances formed in our day!)

A. He uses deceptive wiles. (vs 4) (tricks)

Ephes. 6:11

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

1 Tim. 3:7

Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

B. He uses deceptive wares. (vs 4-5)

May I remind you that when the devil comes to you in temptation, or to trip you up, he does not do so in a red suit with a pointy tail and horns. He will not be carrying a pitchfork and he will not smell like sulphur. When the devil comes to your life to cause you trouble, he will appear as an angel of light, 2 Cor. 11:14. He will make his plan appear to be the perfect thing for your life. So, beware of every impulse that comes down the line. Check out everything by the Word of God and by the will of God and the Lord will always lead you in the right way!

C. He uses deceptive words. (vs 6-13)

Again, this is a perfect picture of our enemy, the devil. He will use slick and enticing speech to get you to yield to his plans for your life. He practiced this kind of trickery in the Garden of Eden when he talked to Eve, Gen. 3:1-6. He told her that she could question God's Word, v. 1; He told her that God did not really mean what God has said, v. 3; He told her that God was really just holding out on her, v. 5. In other words, the devil will give you every reason in the world to justify the things he wants you to do. Then when you have followed him and are out of God's will and in trouble, he will discard you like a piece of trash and leave you to rot in your sins!

I wonder:

- Just what did the devil tell Cain to get him to kill Abel?
- Just what did the devil tell David to get him to sleep with Bathsheba?
- Just what did the devil tell Judas to get him to betray the Lord Jesus?
- Just what has the devil told you in the past; and what is he telling you now?

Illustration:

You see, 2 Cor. 2:11 tells us that Satan desires to gain an "advantage" over us and to do this, he will use every trick in the book to get us to follow him into failure.

Be careful! 1 Peter 5:8 tells us what the devil is up to this morning. He wants you. He wants your family. He wants your testimony. He wants your church. If you have it and it's from the Lord, he wants it, and to get it, he will do anything!

2. THE ENEMY CAN BE DESTRUCTIVE (VS 14-21)

A. Their ability to see clearly was disrupted.
(vs 14)

B. The ability to seek counsel was disrupted.
(vs 14)

C. Their ability to stay clean was disrupted.
(vs 15-21)

In these verses, we see that the Israelites ability to be a separate people before the Lord was marred by their decision to make a league with the Gibeonites. God had told them to utterly destroy the inhabitants and to make no covenants with them at all, Deut 7:2, "And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:" However, Israel disobey this command and as a result they sinned before the Lord.

3. THE ENEMY CAN BE DEFEATED (VS 22-27)

A. The enemy must be confronted. (vs 22)

B. The enemy must be controlled. (vs 27)

Close:

Joshua and Israel thought they were making a treaty with people from a far away land. However, they found themselves shackled to a Gibeonite!

Has this ever happened to you? Maybe you are in the middle of it right now. You listened to your flesh, or the devil and now you are in a mess.

Why not bring that thing to the Lord and let Him turn you failure into something He can use for His glory?

Maybe you are not even saved. The devil has you! Maybe you would like to come and give your life to Jesus right now and watch Him save your soul and transform you for His glory.

If you need Him this morning you come as He calls!