

Lies That Bind Us - [Joshua 9:1-15](#)

This chapter is a

- reminder that the Lord wants you to reach your full potential
- in Christ but the enemy is working to prevent that from happening. This truth is illustrated by the way the Gibeonites deceived God's people and led them into a binding oath.
- For the Christian - God wants you to continue growing,
- For the lost person - God wants you to be saved
- For the married - flourishing marriage
- For the business person - bless the kingdom

Luke 22:31-34 The enemy is working against these...

Warning to Peter, **31** And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon**, behold, Satan **hath desired to have you**, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But **I have prayed for thee**, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. **33** And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. **34** And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

The title of this message is, "**Lies That Bind Us.**" That's exactly what the Gibeonites did and that's what the Christian fights against daily.

ILL - When I first started mowing grass as a boy, my dad taught me to keep an eye out for loose wire, stumps, roots, and other elements that could be lying under the cover of the grass. To catch a loose piece of wire would put your mower in bind and you would have to fix it.

Likewise the Christian has to be alert of those things that would slip into our lives unaware and hinder our walk with Christ.

TT - Consider 3 insights about the lies that bind us.

mowing

The New York Times did an article back in 2001 on

- **George O'Leary**, a leading head football coach,
- Hired to coach the football team at the University of Notre Dame.

After 5 days he was fired due to an exaggerated resume that was 20 years old.

- A young father and newly married husband, Coach O'Leary wanted to present himself with an outstanding resume.
- He claimed to have varsity letters from a football team for which he never played and a master's degree from a school which he didn't even have a graduate degree.
- Notre Dame hired O'Leary on this information and his proven track record.
- The problem is that the information was a 20 year old lie. Sadly his whole career was built on this deceiving resume.¹

Similarly, this happens when the Gibeonites come to Joshua and the elders.

- They present themselves in a deceptive manner with lies that compromise and bind God's people.

Ephesians 5:6 -a warning to us:

⁶ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Consider these insights about the lies that bind God's people:


1. The Timing Presented - [Joshua 8:30-9:3](#)

[Joshua 8:30-9:3](#)

30 Then Joshua **built an altar unto the Lord** God of Israel in mount Ebal, 31 As Moses the servant of the Lord commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they **offered thereon burnt offerings unto the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings.** 32 And he **wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses,** which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel. 33 And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which **bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord,** as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward **he read all the words of the law,** the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not **before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.**

1 And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; 2 That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord. 3 And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,

Isn't it interesting -

 that as the children of Israel are making progress in their journey, have consecrated to the Lord, and making victorious strides, then the enemy wants to show up in a deceptive way.

[Matthew 4:1-11](#) records the temptation of Jesus. This event takes place right after the baptism of Christ

Matthew 17:1-18 - Immediately after the Mount of Transfiguration Jesus is approached by one who is possessed with a demon. There was spiritual attack after the great mountain top experience.

We can't let our guard down at any time, especially when things have been going good.

Paul David Tripp says, The danger here is that theological knowledge, powerful gifts, ministry experience, and success can distort the way a leader views himself. Until we are on the other side, these things make us susceptible to spiritual attack.²

Model
Prayer

Part of the Lord's Model Prayer was to lead us not into temptation

Matthew 6:13

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Deception is a constant struggle we are faced with in temptation but often in times when we think we are the strongest.

Peter

Peter just knew for sure he was strong enough to stand without denying Jesus but that is when he failed. [Mark 14:29](#)

Mark 14:29

29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.

1. The Timing Presented -

2. The Tempting Presentation - [Joshua 9:4-13](#)

Joshua 9:4–13

4 They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; 5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. 6 And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us. 7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? 8 And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye? 9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the Lord thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, 10 And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth. 11 Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us. 12 This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: 13 And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.

A. The Appearance is Changed - v. 4-5

4 They did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; 5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy.

The church in Corinth is warned to be aware of Satan's deceptive appearance as an angel of light -

2 Corinthians 11:13–14 ESV

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

B. Sometimes the lies appear to have good intentions - Joshua 9:9, 24

Joshua 9:9

9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the Lord thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt,

Joshua 9:24

24 And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the Lord thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

The Gibeonites presented themselves as servants. They presented themselves as being a benefit to the children of Israel.

The enemy deceives us into thinking we can't live without what he is offering to us.

Satan offered Eve that if she would partake of the forbidden fruit she would be as the gods and to know good and evil.

III - The billboard that promote sinful pleasures don't show you the heartbreak that comes with it.

C. The Emotional Aspect - v. 12-14

12 This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: 13 And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey. 14 And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord.

They give them a sample of the mouldy bread - v. 14

D. What Is and Isn't Said - v. 6, 24

6. And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us.

Joshua 9:24

24 And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the Lord thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

The Gibeonites are sneaky to only tell about the victory that God's people experienced on the other side of Jordan.

- They would run the risk of exposure if they were to report about the victory at Jericho and Ai. The devil will not give you all the facts at the risk of exposing himself.
- He'll give you just enough to nibble the bait and take it. You'll find yourself agreeing with what is said and before you know it you've done things that you wouldn't have done had you known the whole story.

It is possible that the Gibeonites knew the Scriptural provision

- [Deuteronomy 20:10-18](#) - [Josh 9:24](#) gives all indications of this. -
- [Deuteronomy 20:17](#) specifically refers to the Hivites.

Furthermore, God had warned in His instructions about conquering the land that Israel must “

- Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee” ([Exodus 34:12](#)).¹

[Deuteronomy 20:10–18](#) (KJV 1900)

¹⁰ When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. ¹¹ And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, *that* all the people *that is* found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee. ¹² And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it: ¹³ And when the Lord thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword: ¹⁴ But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, *even* all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the Lord thy God hath given thee. ¹⁵ Thus

shalt thou do unto all the cities *which are* very far off from thee, which *are* not of the cities of these nations. ¹⁶ But of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee *for* an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: ¹⁷ But thou shalt utterly destroy them; *namely*, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, **the Hivites**, and the Jebusites; as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee: ¹⁸ That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God.

The devil knows scripture. He used scripture in the account with Eve, “God hath said...” and in the temptation of Jesus....

ILL - “Years ago, a seminary professor told his class at the beginning of the semester that they would work together on one major project during that semester. They would move systematically through the New Testament to categorize every area of truth and determine how many times each area is addressed. Their goal was to find what one thing is emphasized more than any other in the New Testament. When they completed the project, they were amazed to see **that warning against false doctrine is emphasized more than any other thing, even more than love, unity, and experience.**”³

We have often warned people about apostates in the pulpit. We warn that it is not only what they say that is bad, but it is also what they do *not* say that condemns them.

John Butler reminds us

of the example of those who hide behind the name of a radio ministry and they preach on things we may agree about and present themselves as a conservative Bible ministry and they receive your money. The problem is they won't tell you about the fundamental doctrines of the faith.

E. The urgent request - v. 11

Joshua 9:11 - "...therefore now make ye a league with us"

There was a persistence about the Gibeonites to make a deal quickly. They were afraid if Joshua and the elders didn't make a decision right then, they might discover the truth.

After a temptation has taken conception people will say:

- I just don't know what I was thinking.
- I was just reacting.
- It happened so fast.

ILL - A good sales tactic is to use urgency to talk you into committing to a product. Usually when you get the product it's not what you were promised

1. The Timing Presented -

2. The Tempting Presentation -

3. The Tragic Predicament - Joshua 9:14-20

Joshua 9:14–20

14 And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord. 15 And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.

16 And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them. 17 And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjath-jearim. 18 And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the Lord God of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the princes. 19 But all the princes said unto all the congregation, We have sworn unto them by the Lord God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them. 20 This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them.

Sin has inescapable consequences

A. “asked not of the counsel of the Lord” - v. 14

Proverbs 3:5–6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
And lean not unto thine own understanding.
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him,
And he shall direct thy paths.

At this stage of the conquest they needed to focus on their one supremely important task and commission—often to fight, always to pray, and above all to be obedient to everything God commands them.¹

The Israelites went against God’s revealed

- How often do we also do the same when we sample the mouldy bread and make decisions on our physical senses rather than spiritual senses.

B. They didn't follow up with their doubt - v. 7-8

God gave them an intuition that there was something not right. They asked the right questions but they never followed up on the answers. It's like Notre Dome when they hired O'leary.

Joshua 9:7-8

7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? 8 And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye?

ILL - When I was offered a job one time there was a doubt that the Lord had shed light on. When I researched it and found out that the doubt was accurate I turned down the position.

When you are considering a job, a candidate for a job, a relationship, a school, a college, a social organization, you need to get the right information and follow up on it as well.

- Will this help me honor the Lord
- Will this cause me to compromise
- Will this keep me out of church

C. God can take tragic situations and work them out for His glory

Joseph told his brothers in **Genesis 50:20**

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

The Gibeonites are called on to begin serving in the Lord's service as hewers of wood and drawers of water;

Hewers of wood to keep the altar fire going

Joshua 9:21

21 And the princes said unto them, Let them live; but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all the congregation; as the princes had promised them.

Gibeon was defended by God when Saul killed men of Gibeon [2 Samuel 21:1-2](#)

2 Samuel 21:1-2

1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. 2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)

God names them among the builders in [Nehemiah 3:7](#), [7:25](#)
[Nehemiah 3:7](#) (KJV 1900)

⁷ And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river.

[Nehemiah 7:25](#) (KJV 1900)

²⁵ The children of Gibeon, ninety and five.

The Gibeonites were extended mercy by the LORD and so it is with every sinner. Jeremiah reminds us what our heart is.

Jeremiah 17:9

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

The cross and the empty grave is the most glorious example of how God can take a bad situation and turn it into good.

Closing:

Neither the Gibeonites nor the Israelites came out of the story untainted, but the grace of God superabounds over all human sin and failure. He is the hero of the story.

And that grace leads us directly to the cross, where we see in the clearest possible way that “the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many ... so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” ([Romans 5:15, 21](#))

Romans 5:15

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Romans 5:21

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/15/sports/notre-dame-coach-resigns-after-5-days-and-a-few-lies.html>

² Tripp, Paul David. Lead (p. 122). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

³ (Renald Showers, in "Israel My Glory," [April/May, 1995], pp. 24-25).

Bideon App

Bible

Help References

86 million Bibles / yr