

BIBLE BOWL -2016

Lesson #5 –Deception of the Gibeonites

Scripture Reading: Joshua 9

Introduction:

1. To avoid calamity one does well to consult the instructions first.
2. Christians should always seek the council of the Lord!
3. In this lesson we will examine some of the reasons for seeking the Lord's council.

I. THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY APPEAR TO BE

A. THE GIBEONITES WERE MOTIVATED BY FEAR

1. They had heard of the power of the God of Israel –vs. 3, 9-10
2. They pretended to be ambassadors from a far off place -4-6
 - a. They had provision that appeared old to make it seem they were from afar.
 - b. They were in reality only a three day journey –vs. 17

B. SIGNS CAN BE DECEPTIVE

1. There are a great number of people who desire to see a sign before committing to belief.
2. As seen in our story, physical signs can be subject to misinterpretation.

C. WE CAN BE DECEIVED TODAY

1. There is a great amount of knowledge that sounds right –Pr 14:12, Je 10:23, 2Co 11:13-15
 - a. E.g. –“Find a ‘Bible believing church’”
 - b. Most (if not all) churches will claim to believe in the Bible.
 - c. Better to find a Bible following church! –Lk 6:46, Mt 7:21-23, 2Ti 2:19
2. Only the word of God illuminates our path to know right from wrong –Ps 119:105, He 5:12-14

II. VOWS ARE TO BE KEPT

A. ISRAEL MAKES A VOW WITH THE GIBEONITES -vs. 14-15

1. Joshua did not seek the council of the Lord
 - a. He was instructed to do so –Nu 27:18-21
 - 1) The High Priest would inquire of the Lord by the “Urim and Thummim”
 - 2) These were thought to be two stones on the breastplate of the High Priest
 - 3) They would be used to give the divine answer of either “yes”, “no”, or “neutral”
 - 4) The Urim begins with the first Hebrew letter of their alphabet “aleph”
 - 5) The Thummim begins with the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet “tav”
 - 6) This signifies that this is the full and complete will of God
 - b. Because he did not seek the council of the Lord and made the vow presumptuously, consequences would now follow.
2. The Gibeonites needed protection –Jo 10:1-ff
 - a. Five kings allied against Gibeon.
 - b. The Lord gives His assurance:
 - 1) He will be with them –10:7-8
 - 2) He rained down hailstones from heaven -10:11
 - 3) He caused the sun to stand still for almost a day -10:12-14
3. The Gibeonites later were to be avenged -2Sa 21:1-14

B. WE KEEP OUR VOWS TO THE LORD TODAY

1. The vows of marriage
 - a. This vow is made before God and family
 - b. It is a life-long commitment –Ro 7:1-3
 - c. The only exception is sexual immorality –Mt 19:9

2. The vow we make in our commitment to follow the Lord –Ro 6:1-4
 - a. We have died to sin and are alive to God
 - b. Too many seek to go back into the world -2Pe 2:20-22, Ga 5:16-ff

Conclusion:

1. In our daily Christian living we must follow after God each day.
2. This can only be accomplished by seeking the counsel of the Lord.
3. E.g. –Jesus prayed before selecting the twelve apostles, raising Lazarus feeding the 5,000.
4. E.g. –The founding fathers perspective on beginning congressional sessions with prayer.
5. Joshua learned the hard way, Jesus gave us the perfect example, and the founding fathers followed His example, the question remains, “What about us?”