



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA

Sermon Series Notes

“Deception” (Joshua 9:1-14)

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The sin of Achan has been dealt with, and afterward Joshua read the entire Bible to the Israelites. But despite dealing with the sin of Achan, and listening to the entire Bible being read, another mistake is about to be made, a very subtle one.

Read the text. What a subtle move on the part of the Gibeonites.

Subtle: Difficult to perceive.

The Gibeonites deceived them.

Deception: To cause to believe what is not true; to mislead.

The phrase originated in the 12th century and goes like this: “All that glisters is not gold.” Over time the “glisters” was changed to glitters, and now it goes “All that glitters is not gold.”

There are lots of ways we can be deceived in life, that’s why we need the Lord’s direction every day, because every day has evil that attempts to deceive us.

Satan is the author of deception; Deception is a lie; See John 8:44; Satan is a very good liar. He deceived one third of the angels to rebel against God (Rev.12:4). He’s good!

And Satan brought deception to this planet in a place called The Garden of Eden. See Gen.3:1-13; Satan got Eve to doubt the goodness of God; I have no doubt that Satan thought he could get Job to doubt the goodness of God; See Job 1:9-22; 2:1-10. Never let Satan get you to doubt the goodness of God; See James 1:13-18.

Before we go on, I want us to pause and consider how powerful deception can be. One reason is it so powerful is because Satan is so good at it.

II Cor.11:14...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. KJV is transformed into an angel of light.

See II Thess.2:9-10

As we move closer to the second coming of Christ, deception will only increase.

II Tim.3:13...evil doers and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Matt.24:24 For false messiah's and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Rev.13:14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth...

Even after the 1,000 year reign of Christ, multitudes will be deceived; Rev.20:7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth...

But there is another reason deception is so powerful, and that is because our hearts are deceitful.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Sometimes we are deceived/led astray by Satan, and he often uses people to lead us astray. But sometimes we are led astray simply because of the deceitfulness of our own hearts.

II Cor.11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your pure devotion to Christ.

Eve doubted God's goodness. But that's not all.

Gen.3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was **good for food...**

Eve gave in to what is called "the lust of the flesh." It is the satisfying of a physical appetite, and it goes beyond just food. Gluttony is a struggle for some people, but my struggle has been with the lust of the flesh and sexual temptation. Scores of people have been led astray from a pure devotion to Christ by committing sexual immorality.

So Eve doubted the goodness of God, gave in to the lust of the flesh, but that's not all.

Gen.3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and **pleasing to the eye...**

Eve gave in to what is called "the lust of the eyes." She should have realized that "all that glitters is not gold," but instead was deceived.

So Eve gave in to the lust of the flesh, and also the lust of the eyes. But that's not all.

Gen.3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also **desirable for gaining wisdom...**

This is called "the pride of life." The wisdom she sought was not God's wisdom, but the wisdom of this world. And wisdom that leaves God out of the equation is foolishness; See I Cor.3:18-19; Also Obadiah 1:3 (About Edom) The pride of your heart has deceived you...

Now for those of you who are going to send me an email and complain about why I'm picking on Eve and saying nothing about Adam, let me save you from taking the time to write. I Tim.2:14 says that it was not Adam who was deceived but Eve. So Adam was an outright rebel with no excuse at all. And Adam ended up blaming both his wife and God for the sin he had so willfully committed! Rebels know full well that they are rebels, and they just need to come clean and not try blaming anyone but themselves for their rebel ways. I know how to deal with rebellion. What I want to know is how to deal with deception.

How do I keep from being deceived in life?

The only way Israel could have known that the Gibeonites were deceiving them was to inquire of the Lord. Without the Lord's help there is no way to not be deceived. For example, we've talked about Judas Iscariot before. None of the other 11 apostles had a clue that Judas was "a devil from the beginning." Only the Lord knew the truth.

So, let's look at several important things that will help us to guard against being deceived.

- Make certain you know Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior; When we are born again, God changes our hearts; See Titus 3:3a, 5b. But we still have a sin nature, and we have to daily say no to the deceptive nature of sin.
- Don't let sin deceive you.
 - Romans 7:11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me...
 - Gal.6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
 - Hebrews 11:25 He chose to be mistreated with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
- Choose godly friends
 - I Cor.15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
- Saturate your life with the Word of God
 - Jeremiah 17: 9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind...
 - Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- Don't just listen to the Word, do what it says.
 - James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
 - Psalm 119:10 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
 - Clear directives?
- Stay focused on eternal things (II Cor.4:16-18; Col.3:1-4; Heb.11:25-26)
- Develop and maintain a strong prayer life.

- Col.3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...
- To be an umpire; to direct.
- There are so many decisions we have to make in this life that have no specific Scripture to direct us.

CONCLUSION

- Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.