

**JOSHUA 9:14 - Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.**

2/24/2018 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus – Alan Jackson - The Maranatha! Singers**

1. *What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit. Oh, what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer*
2. *Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.*
3. *Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.*

**The Biblical Setting:** - As Joshua began the conquest of the Promised Land, he faced three formidable enemies: Jericho, Ai, and the Gibeonites. These three enemies of Joshua represent the enemies of the Christian today. Jericho represents the *world*; Ai represents the *flesh*; and the Gibeonites represent the *devil*. You will recall that Joshua's strategy was to first take Jericho, located right in the center of the land, then to take Ai which stood northeast of Jericho. To the south was an alliance of Gibeonites. But the Gibeonites were clever. They pretended to be envoys from a far country when they lived only a few miles from Jerusalem. **They told Joshua that they really wanted to worship the living and true God.** Then they called Joshua's attention to their old sacks and wineskins, their old shoes, threadbare clothing, and their moldy bread. It was all a hoax, but Joshua fell for it. God had ordered the Israelites to completely wipe out the people of the land and to make no treaties with them. Although it was Joshua's intent to obey God, he was deceived into making peace with the Gibeonites and actually making a league with them. Notice that **neither Joshua nor the leaders asked the mind of God before entering into this covenant** with the Gibeonites. **They didn't pray!**

- **vs. 1-3** The enemies of Israel realize they need to unite. The Lord uses this uniting, actually makes it easier for Israel to conquer them, all gathered together in a field, rather than taking each in its own walled city, one by one! Plans of the enemy are no problem for God. **He turns their evil plans for His good.**
- **v. 4** The Gibeonites are smarter – they will choose not to use force against force, but use **deception**, posing as coming a long way, knowing that Joshua could make no covenants with the Canaanites.
- **vs. 7-8** Joshua **is alerted that something may not be right?** It doesn't fit right with him. Every time I've been conned, **I have been warned by the Spirit.** No! **some things not right here.** The Gibeonites are **very good at conning, better than Israel recognizing.** A great lesson here for us! Joshua hesitates, something is not fitting here. **He's lost his peace!**
- **Col 3:15** *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.* **Joshua goes against his peace** here, when he enters into this covenant. Whenever we go against our peace, **it's been a wrong decision.**
- **Is your life right now to be ruled by peace, hour by hour, day by day?**
- **Never, ever, go against your peace!** Every time we do we make a mistake. That's the way God speaks to us! As Christians we walk in peace. **When that peace gets disturbed, look out!**
- **There is a fool proof defense against deception - ask counsel of the Lord!!!!**
- **v. 9** Notice the **danger in continuing the conversation with the enemy**. They're deceivers! We've got a greater deceiver than the Gibeonites. The devil is the father of lies. Lessons for us here!

- “because of the name of the LORD your God” **Watch out for a little “God talk”! Beware!** Christians have a tendency to let their guard down.
- **vs. 9-13** Watch out for paying **too much attention to the physical evidence, too much to what we see.** Realize that we have a greater deceiver in Satan.
- **What do you do in situations where you confront him** or his workers of iniquity? **Jas 4:7** **Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**
- **vs. 12-13** **This bread of ours.** They’re really laying it on! Hot bread out of the oven! Wineskins which were new, now old! Garments & sandals, new but now old! A very **thorough deception!**
- **They took stock of their provisions! They will make their decision based on physical evidence.**
- **JOSHUA 9:14 Then the men of Israel took** (accept, receive) **some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.** If they had, they would have immediately known that there is deception here.
- **Once again we see a failure of Israel to pray.** Failure in taking Ai. Now they get fooled. That’s how good the devil and the world is! **They completely deceive us by the physical evidence.** How many bad decisions are made by not praying! There is a **sense of something wrong, but there still is no prayer.** but **more discussion** with the deceivers!
- A very important lesson on the importance of prayer for a victorious Christian life! **God’s Word is true. The warnings of God are faithful. When God warns you about alliances with unbelievers, listen to the Word of God.**
- **How frequently do you seek the counsel of the Lord when making decisions?** **Jas 1:5; Pro 3:5-6; Eph 6:18.**
- **v. 15** They didn’t ask counsel, so Joshua made peace with them. **v. 16-17** After three days, they realize they’ve been taken! What is **your response when you discover that someone has seriously deceived you?**
- **v.18** Even though we’ve gotten fooled, we’ve given them our word and kept the commitment. This was the right thing to do. Later when King Saul attempted to wipe them out, God was very displeased.
- Notice that “all the congregation complained against the rulers”! Why? Likely, it was the **obvious prayerlessness of their leaders!** It was so unnecessary!
- **Leaders need to recognize the importance of prayer.** God’s people will overlook a certain amount of poor decisions made by their leaders, but there is a limit – **a consistent lack of prayer.**
- **Here is a strong, strong exhortation for leaders to pray for all decision making!**
- **v. 20** How **good are you, am I, for our word?**

### **SUMMARY:**

- When did you last experience the Lord turning what the enemy met for evil to that for good?
- How long has it been since you “lost your peace” through a deceptive situation? What did you do at that point?
- How common is it in your life right now to be ruled by peace, hour by hour, day by day?
- Never, ever go against your peace! Every time we do we make a mistake. That’s the way God speaks to us! As Christians we walk in peace. When that peace gets disturbed, look out!
- When God warns you about alliances with unbelievers, listen to the Word of God.
- There is a fool proof defense against deception! Ask counsel of the Lord! Pray!

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

Please Note: You may see/download any of the past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) .