

3. Read Joshua 11:19-20. Note that God hardened the hearts of all the Canaanite kings *except* Gibeon who sought peace with Israel. Recognizing those two points, If Israel had inquired of God during the negotiations (9:14) do you think God would have ordered their slaughter? Why, or why not?

Curse or blessing?

4. Read Joshua 9:27. The Israelites wanted to kill the Gibeonites but Joshua saved them because of the vow. What was the curse (9:23) that Joshua imposed?
5. So here's the question: Why was it better to have the Gibeonites "under curse" where they were rather than "blessing them" and sending them back to their old location and their old way of life?
6. What did the Israelites want to do to the Gibeonites? (9:27) Do you ever find yourself like the Israelites desiring to punish people (or groups or classes of people) who God might want to bless? What was the attitude of Jesus toward people who others depreciated? (Story of Zaccheus – Luke 19:7; story of woman anointing Jesus' feet – Luke 7:39)

OUR GODLY RESPONSE

Joshua 9:1-27

"Lord, grant that anger or other bitterness does not reign over us, but that your grace, genuine kindness, loyalty, and every kind of friendliness, generosity, and gentleness may reign in us. Amen"

- Martin Luther

Joshua 9:1-6a People respond to God differently.

Joshua 9:6b-13 God's people exemplify discernment.

Joshua 9:16-21 God's people keep their word.

Joshua 9:22-27 God's people are known by mercy.

Joshua 9:14-15 God's people ultimately rely on God's perspective.

Getting to know you

How long have you been at Chapel City Church? How did you get here? What attracted you to the church?

Connecting with the past

1. Read Joshua 5:1; 9:1. The players in the verses are the same but the conclusions are different. What's different about them?

What do you think could account for the difference? (Hint: think about the whole battle of Ai in chapter 8)

Digging into the story

2. Gibeon was a "royal city" (Josh 10:2). Read through Joshua 9:1-15. What did the Gibeonites see about Israel that the other kings in 9:1 didn't see? (Think hard on this one – what are they willing to give up to be on Israel's side?)