



## Counterfeits!

Series: *The Venture and Victory of Faith*, Book of Joshua (#8)

Text: Joshua 9:1-27

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Theme: **Always seek and rely on God's guidance.**

### **The Gibeonites' deception.**

1. Their motive. (24; compare 1-5; see also Deuteronomy 7:1-2; 20:16-18)
2. Their plan.
  - a. Start with a full measure of facts.  
(1, 9-10, 19-24; see also 2:10; 3:1-17; 5:1; 6:1-27; 8:1-29; Deuteronomy 7:1-2; 20:16-18)
  - b. Blend in a generous amount of lies.  
(3-13; see also John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:3, 12-15)
  - c. Top it off with a subtle appeal to pride.  
(6, 8-11; see also Genesis 3:1-7)

### **The Israelites being deceived.**

1. What they did right. (6-8, 14; see also 1 Thessalonians 5:21)
2. What they did wrong.  
(14b-15; see also Psalm 32:8; 37:3-6; 106:12-15; Proverbs 3:5-6; 14:12; 16:1-3, 9; 26:12; Ephesians 4:14; James 1:5-8)

### **The Israelites living with the consequences.**

1. The leaders openly and honestly disclosed what they had done.  
(18-20; see also 8:19-21)
2. The leaders and people kept true to God despite the personal cost.  
(18-27; see also Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 20:10-18; 2 Samuel 21:1-14; Psalm 15:4)

## In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

**Monday.** No one likes being deceived. The Gibeonites acted “craftily” to deceive Israel and avoid God’s judgment of being destroyed. Compare this to Satan’s deception in Genesis 3:1-7. Satan and his forces try to destroy by fraud as well as force. Are you prepared?

**Tuesday.** Joshua and the other leaders were deceived by the Gibeonites. What the Joshua and the other leaders do right? What did they do wrong? Use the other Scripture references listed in the outline to fill out the picture. Are there things or areas you think you can handle yourself without God's counsel? Ask God to apply any needed correction, challenges and certainties to where you are at.

**Wednesday.** We have made decisions that were not the best, and not even right. Then what? Joshua and the leaders were open and honest even when the people grumbled against them. Being loyal to God and honoring Him was more important than saving face. Living with a bad decision can be very difficult. Joshua and the leaders had integrity here, which is a good model for us.

**Thursday.** Read through Joshua 9. Review the events, your notes and thoughts. What has this account taught you about facing deception on human and spiritual levels? List those lessons and keep them for review on a regular basis.

**Friday – Saturday.** Sunday we plan to go on to chapter 10 and the question *How big is your God?* Read and think through the chapter in preparation for our time together.