

Joshua 10  
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Title: Responsibilities and Rewards  
9/24/23

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are the covenant relationships in your life?
  2. Do you think most people believe in the devil? Why or why not?
  3. How might you have responded to the Gibeonite call for help?
  4. Can you think of when you did or didn't "take the high road"?
  5. What stood out to you personally from our study in Joshua 10?
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### **Teaching Notes:**

The last couple of weeks we have been looking at the Gibeonites. They lied to save themselves, but obtained a covenant with Israel. **We looked at ways to move forward in a difficult relationship. ...maybe after a failure or mistake.**

**Today, what does it mean to be in a covenant relationship?**

**A covenant is a contract or agreement.**

Biblically it is an agreement within a relationship of commitment.

These responsibilities often take some work...

...but usually bring positive results or rewards.

**Covenant relationships have responsibilities and results.**

**Title: Responsibilities and Rewards**

**BI: Positive rewards follow faithfully fulfilled responsibilities.**

**What's this like practically? Some covenant relationships...**

**Businesses** are strengthened when people choose to work hard with integrity, when employees and employers can be trusted, when a job is done well because people are cared for inside and outside of the organization.

**Governments** are most productive when people take the time to participate and vote and serve, when politicians can be trusted, and public servants actually serve the public.

**Schools** are most effective when students choose to do their own work and learn with integrity, when they don't play the game of what can I get away with, but how can I do my best. When teachers care about students and not just test scores or tenure.

**Marriages and families** are healthier and closer when we value people over things, when we are willing to speak up and listen, when we don't try to always be right, but kind, and when we demonstrate care for one another.

**Churches** are fruitful when Christians choose to be engaged, when we care about the needs of others, when we don't come as consumers but as servants, when we don't come to get but to give. And when we pursue glorifying God and loving one another.

**And that is the backdrop for this battle...**

Israel made a covenant with Gibeon...

...and now it is going to be tested...

...Covenant relationships are tested when things get difficult.

10:1 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it—as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king—and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, 2 that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.

Adoni Zedek has heard all that has happened with the Jews.

They knew Gibeon made a deal even though they were strong.

**Notice...Gibeon did not surrender because they were weak...**

...but because they were wise.

They were strong, but they knew God was stronger.

**Surrender is wise not weak.**

Don't fight against the Lord.

They are a great example of the wisdom of surrendering to serve.

Surrender is safest with God, **but** the enemy is not going to like it.

3 Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, 4 “Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.” 5 Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

Gibeon has surrendered to Israel and to serve the Lord.

...but now they are in trouble...

...The enemy is ready to attack them.

**For some of you, as soon as you surrendered to the Lord...  
...You felt the attack...maybe everything fell apart.**

Maybe friends turned on you, or people tried to tempt you.  
Some wanted to see you fail and fall off your “high horse”.  
Maybe you felt attacked or overwhelmed or surrounded.

**But...remember this...  
The enemy doesn't want you to surrender to the Lord...  
...But the Lord will even use those attacks for His purpose.**

**6 And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, “Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us.”**

**What is this covenant worth?**

The question is not only can we trust the God of Israel...  
**...but, can we trust the people of God?**

This is an important question that people are asking today.  
**It is not just can we trust God...  
...but can we trust the people of God?**

**As much as it has to do with us, the answer must be yes.**

Yes, we will keep our word.

Yes, we will love and honor our spouse.

Yes, we will train and discipline our children.

Yes, we will work hard as unto the Lord not to men at work.

Yes, we will be faithful to think the best and forgive the worst.

Yes, we will persevere through difficulties and hurts.

**So...the call goes out, the covenant is put to the test...  
...what will be the response?**

**7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.**

**Notice: Joshua doesn't seek the Lord on whether to respond.  
...he already has an established covenant.**

**You don't have to ask yourself...**

Should I be faithful to my spouse?

Should I pay my taxes?

Should I show up for work?

So Joshua **ascends** with all he has.

### **1. Take the high road.**

When you have a choice to make, take the high road.

**In life there are multiple paths to take...**

**...But the high road is the one with the most rewards...**

**...and the least regrets.**

- The high road is the road of honor, integrity, and discipline.
- It is the road that goes the extra mile and turns the other cheek.
- It is the choice to forgive instead of hold a grudge.
- To choose kindness in the face of insults and malice.

**But HOW does he take the high road? With all he has.**

Don't "sort of" take the high road.

Don't "kind of" show up or "pretty much" forgive.

**Do it with all of your heart and soul and mind and strength...**

**...Because really the high road is the road of love.**

**What does the Lord say? He gives the same 3 part promise.**

**8 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you." 9 Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.**

If you want to enjoy the Promised Land...

...you have to live in His promises.

### **2. Take action with God's promises.**

**Believing God's promises keeps us from being afraid...**

**...And it is fear that often stops us from taking the high road.**

We can be afraid of defeat or...

...we can be afraid of pain in the process...

**But either way it is fear that keeps us from taking action.**

**...and action is why God gives us His promises.**

**God's promises aren't to admire but to take through the mire.**

They are not meant to be just memorized and quoted.

They are meant to be taken into battle.

**Don't hang God's promises on your walls...**

...if all you are going to do is look at them...  
...God's promises must be put into practice.

**God's promises are used where life is lived—**  
in the living room or the boardroom,  
in the hospital or the nursing home.  
They are for the darkest nights and the hardest days.

God's promises are for when you feel like you can't...  
...but God says you can.

**But notice...the Lord says, Do not fear THEM.**  
Because most of our fears are about people.

People hurt you, scare you, make you feel bad,  
You are embarrassed, you feel judged...and you take no action.

**Living in God's promises means...**  
...obeying Him instead of fearing them.

**If we are walking in God's will, God will make a way.**  
God will provide what you need to accomplish what HE wants.

**This is their biggest battle yet. There are five kings to fight.**  
...There is only so much you can do in a day!

But what you think are obstacles will not stand in His way...  
**Obstacles are just opportunities for God to reveal His glory.**

**Are you worried, you can't figure it out, you can't work it out?**  
Don't worry about how it will work out...  
...worry about the action required to fulfill your covenant and...  
...keeping your word and doing the work He has called you to do.

**10** So the Lord routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. **11** And it happened, as they fled before Israel *and* were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. *There were* more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

**12** Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over

Gibeon;  
And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”  
13 So the sun stood still,  
And the moon stopped,  
Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.  
*Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven,  
and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. 14 And there has been no day  
like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord  
fought for Israel. 15 Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.*

A lot of people spend a lot of time trying to explain this section.  
But let's just say...

### **3. Do not limit the Lord.**

Nothing is too hard for the Lord.

If the Lord controls the weather, can't He control hailstones?  
If God made the sun and moon at His word...  
...can He stop them from moving as well?

**But even more important is, the Lord listened to Joshua.**

*“There was never another day like it. The Lord fought for Israel.”*

When we are surrendered to the Lord, trusting in His promises, and stepping up to keep  
our covenant...

...we never know what God will do.

It only happened once, but it happened.

**Miracles are miraculous because they are rare.**

But that doesn't mean they don't happen.

*16 But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah. 17 And  
it was told Joshua, saying, “The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at  
Makkedah.” 18 So Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and  
set men by it to guard them. 19 And do not stay *there* yourselves,  
*but* pursue your enemies, and attack their rear *guard*. Do not allow them to enter their  
cities, for the Lord your God has delivered them into your hand.”*

They are not letting anyone escape to regroup.

They are not letting the kings get a foothold to fight back.

For us...

### **4. Leave no footholds.**

**When you are trying to fulfill your covenant responsibilities...**

...Don't just try to avoid temptations...eliminate all options.

...Don't leave room for a counter attack.

**Paul tells us do not give the devil a foothold...**

What could be a foothold for the devil?

...Anger, pride, unforgiveness, laziness.

**Instead of giving the enemy a foothold...**

...**Joshua eliminates the enemies and later has his leaders...**

...put their foot on these kings' necks.

SKIP DOWN...

**24** So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. **25** Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

Jericho was awesome, Ai was a tough learning experience.

...But defending this covenant led to their greatest victory...

...**AND** would be the first domino of the rest of their conquest.

**5. Fight for faithfulness**

**In our covenant relationships, what matters is...**

*Your testimony at work*

*Your influence with friends*

*The **message** of your marriage*

*The fruit of your family*

**Our greatest rewards are going to come from being faithful to our responsibilities in our covenant relationships.**

**And our greatest failures will come from being unfaithful to our responsibilities in our covenant relationships.**

**...And everything else we do will flow from that fruit.**