

COURAGEOUS WARRIOR – Art of Deception

Joshua 9

v.1-7

Common Agents of Deception

Sensory perception - The ability to understand and interact with the environment using senses of sight, smell, hearing, taste, touch.

(Proverbs 28:26) He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

"The just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17)

Jesus said. (Matthew 4:4) "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Deception is often served on a plate of “false humility,” and “flattery.”

False Humility – (v.8)

Flattery – (v.9-10)

Compliment is a *polite expression of appreciation*.

Flattery is excessive and insincere praise!

“flattery is like chewing gum. Enjoy it but don't swallow it.” Hank Ketcham

Flattery the enemy of faith. (Romans 16:17-18) Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

v.12-14a - Antidote to Deception

“...but they did not ask counsel of the Lord.”

Israel’s leadership partook of the Gibeonite’s provisions. (v.14).

Verse 15 – They “felt good” about it.

(Jeremiah 17:9-10) "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

(Proverbs 18:1) A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

In **v.16-18** The children of Israel learn of the Gibeonite’s “deception.”

Reaction to Deception v.19-21 – Israel’s leaders, keep their word.

The Gibeonites were “cursed” (v.23) subject to a life of “servitude, to “menial (lowly) labor.”

In **v.24-27** the Gibeonites reveal the motivation behind their deception.

(Psalm 15:4b) “He who swears to his own hurt and does not change.”

Our word should be our bond. (Colossians 3:9) Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

King Saul discovers God is a God of "Oath." 2 Samuel 21.

(Ecclesiastes 5:4-7) When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed — Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.

CONCLUSION:

(Matthew 26:72) But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"

(Hebrews 7:20-22) And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The Lord has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek'"), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

Christ's everlasting priesthood is our assurance, and Eternal Oath! When we are "faithless" He remains "faithful," because His Oath is unbreakable!