

Avoid Deception

Courageous Leadership – Part 5

Life Church St. Louis – October 4, 2020

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

John 8:44 (ESV) You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Matthew 24:10-11 (NIV2011) At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV2011) The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1. Don't be _____ by deception

Joshua 9:3-4 (ESV) But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended,

Joshua 9:6-7 (ESV) And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us." But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?"

Joshua 9:12 (ESV) Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly.

2. Don't rely on _____ wisdom

Joshua 9:14-15 (ESV) So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

Joshua 9:16 (ESV) At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them.

Joshua 9:20-21 (ESV) This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them." And the leaders said to them, "Let them live." So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them..

3. Rely on God's _____

Joshua 10:5-6 (ESV) Then the five kings of the Amorites ... gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it. And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua ... saying, "Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us.

Joshua 10:8, 10 (ESV) And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you." And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon ...

Joshua 10:13-14 (ESV) And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. ... There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel.

Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Read Joshua 9-10).
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Invite a friend to attend the service next week.

How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Avoid Deception Study Guide

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Intro. What are some of the ways that you see Satan deceiving people today (John 8:44)?

Intro. What deceptions may be involved with the 43% of Americans who claim to be Christians but do not attend church?

Intro. In what ways does Jesus' prophecy of the end times in Matthew 24:10-11 apply to our time?

Intro. What additional insights about deception does 1 Timothy 4:1 give us?

1A. Why did Gibeon decide to deceive Israel (Joshua 9:3-4)?

1B. How do you think Satan was behind their deception (Joshua 9:6-7)?

1C. Why did the Gibeonites deception appear convincing to the Israelites (Joshua 9:12)?

1D. In what sense might we compare the methods of deception used by the Gibeonites to the deceptiveness of sin today?

1E. What are some of the areas in our culture that people are being deceived in?

2A. What critical error did the Israelites make in response to the Gibeonite's deception (Joshua 9:14-15)?

2B. Why are lies and deception always eventually discovered (Joshua 9:16)?

2C. What does Joshua 9:19-21 teach us about making promises today?

2D. What consequences might we face for failing to seek God in our decisions?

3A. How was God testing Joshua when the Gibeonites were attacked (Joshua 10:5-6)?

3B. How did the Lord show Joshua that He had not abandoned Israel (Joshua 10:8-10)?

3C. Why do many people try to explain away the supernatural miracles recorded in the Bible (Joshua 10:13-14)?

3D. How can relying on God's guidance keep us from deception (Proverbs 3:5-6)?