



Minimizing the Adversary

Joshua 9:1-27

Minimizing the Adversary

- The cities appear to represent the types of opponents we face:
 - Jericho - A type of the world
 - We have the promise of victory over the world
 - 1John 5:4 - “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.”

Minimizing the Adversary

- Ai - A type of the flesh
- We have the promise of victory over the flesh
 - Rom. 7:24-25 - “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? -- 25 I thank God -- through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Minimizing the Adversary

- Gibeon - A type of the Adversary
- This is a battle that we will fight until the Judgment; we can only resist him until God gives him what he has earned
 - James 4:7 - “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
 - Rev. 20:1-10

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- Joshua 9:1-2 - “And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon-the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite-heard about it, 2 that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.”

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- The Adversary's crowd will join forces to fight God's people
 - The Pharisees and the Herodians
 - Herod Antipas and Pontius Pilate
- The same kind of alliances are being formed today.

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- The Adversary uses deceptive wiles
 - Joshua 9:3-4 - “But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, 4 they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors.”

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- Eph. 6:11 - “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
- Luke 22:31 - “And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat”
- 1Tim. 3:7 - “Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- The Adversary uses deceptive wares
 - Joshua 9:4-5 - “They worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, 5 old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy.”

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- When the Devil comes to you in temptation, he will not do so in a red suit with a pointy tail and horns, carrying a pitchfork and smelling like sulphur
 - 2Cor. 11:14 - “For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- The Adversary uses deceptive words -
Joshua 9:6-13
 - They lied directly - Vs. 6, 9, 11-12
 - They claimed to be something they were not -
Vs. 8-9
 - They deceived by omission - V. 10

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- Note his deception of Eve - Gen. 3:1-6
 - He told her that she could question God's Word - Gen. 3:1
 - He told her that God did not really mean what He said - Gen. 3:3
 - He told her that God was deceiving her - Gen. 3:5

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- Have you ever wondered:
 - Just what did the Adversary tell Cain to get him to kill Abel?
 - Just what did the Adversary tell David to get him to cheat with Bathsheba?
 - Just what did the Adversary tell Judas to betray Jesus?

The Enemy Can Be Deceptive

- What has the Adversary told you in the past, and what is he telling you now?
 - 2Cor. 2:11 - “Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
 - 1Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

The Enemy Can Be Destructive

- Their ability to see clearly was disrupted
 - Joshua 9:14 - “Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.”
 - 1Peter 5:8 says be “sober and vigilant”
 - John 8:44 - “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”
 - Eph. 4:27 - “Nor give place to the devil.”

The Enemy Can Be Destructive

- Do not be hasty in decision making. Give God time to answer your prayers
 - Ex. 14:13 - “And Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.”
 - Psalm 27:14 - “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”

The Enemy Can Be Destructive

- Their ability to stay clean was disrupted; they decided to make a covenant with the Gibeonites
 - Joshua 9:15-21
 - Deut. 7:2 - “And when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.”
 - 2Cor. 6:17 - “Therefore Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”

The Enemy Can Be Defeated

- The enemy must be confronted
 - Joshua 9:22-23 - “Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell near us? 23 Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves-woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”

The Enemy Can Be Defeated

- The enemy must be controlled
 - Joshua 9:27 - “And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.”
- We cannot un-commit our sins, but we can be restored
 - 1John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The Enemy Can Be Defeated

- The enemy must be commissioned
 - Joshua 9:27 - “And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.”
- Joshua took his mistake and used it for God’s glory
 - 2Sam. 21:2-6

The Enemy Can Be Defeated

- Sin will always be sin, and we cannot make it go away by making arrangements with it.
- But our failures do not have to defeat us for our whole life.
- God's grace is bigger than our mistakes