



A Deal's a Deal (Joshua)

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Keeping Your Promises

¹ Now all the kings west of the Jordan River heard about what had happened. These were the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who lived in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far north as the Lebanon mountains. ² These kings combined their armies to fight as one against Joshua and the Israelites. ³ But when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴ they resorted to deception to save themselves. They sent ambassadors to Joshua, loading their donkeys with weathered saddlebags and old, patched wineskins. ⁵ They put on worn-out, patched sandals and ragged clothes. And the bread they took with them was dry and moldy. ⁶ When they arrived at the camp of Israel at Gilgal, they told Joshua and the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant land to ask you to make a peace treaty with us." ⁷ The Israelites replied to these Hivites, "How do we know you don't live nearby? For if you do, we cannot make a treaty with you."

Joshua 9:1-7 NLT

1. Joshua's bad deal

- Tricked
- Truce with their enemies
- Honoring the bad deal

²⁶ So Joshua did not allow the people of Israel to kill them. ²⁷ But that day he made the Gibeonites the woodcutters and water carriers for the community of Israel and for the altar of the LORD—wherever the LORD would choose to build it. And that is what they do to this day.

Joshua 9:26-27 NLT

2. Failing to keep honoring the agreement

- God brings a 3-year famine
- Israel reaffirms the treaty

¹ There was a famine during David's reign that lasted for three years, so David asked the LORD about it. And the LORD said, "The famine has come because Saul and his family are guilty of murdering the Gibeonites." ² So the king summoned the Gibeonites. They were not part of Israel but were all that was left of the nation of the Amorites. The people of Israel had sworn not to kill them, but Saul, in his zeal for Israel and Judah, had tried to wipe them out.

2 Samuel 21:1-2 NLT

Next Steps:

- ☐ Re-read today's story (Joshua 9-10, 2 Samuel 21)
- ☐ I will live up to my word and not make promises I won't or can't keep
- ☐ Fulfill my promise: _____
- ☐ Make peace with those who I have harmed by not honoring my promises: _____
- ☐ _____