



Small Group Notes

Text:
Joshua 9

Title:
Unlikely recipients of the promise

In Chapter 8 Ai falls so we move to Chapter 9 and witness mercy in action despite some dodgy practice on the behalf of the Gibeonites

1. Saved from God
2. Saved by God
3. Saved for God

Reflect

1. From either listening to the sermon and / or reading the text, what most impacts you from the passage? What did you feel the Holy Spirit most speaking to you about or impressing upon you?
2. Look at Deut 20:10-18 do you see that cities that are far off are treated differently to cities that are near. How do you think the Gibeonites worked out the strategy for appearing as if they were from a far-off city? Who did they really fear Joshua or God? why is this instrumental to the outcome?
3. What do you think would have happened if Joshua had asked God about this party's intent? What if the Gibeonites had been upfront about their real location and fear of God would they still have found mercy?
4. When Joshua found out he invoked the curse of perpetual service wood cutting and drawing water. Why did Keith say this was really a great blessing – to be bought into the center of Gods plan and serve in the temple?
5. What does this tell us about recognizing Gods merciful desire for us to enter into the goodness of His plan and then continue serving it in the way we live our lives once called out of the world?

Respond

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for one thought or reflection to think on during the week – ask Him to remind you of this thought and allow it to abide in your thoughts and heart.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you from this passage anything that could be a response in your thought life, your emotional life or your will for the coming week.
3. Keith reminds us we were in the same dire state as the Gibeonites before we were saved – reflect on this during the week and rejoice in His mercy.
4. What is our wood cutting and water dwelling response to our salvation? What works has Jesus set aside for us? Ask the Holy Spirit to identify this and bring you grace and peace to agree with Him.

Optional further study

Look at **2 Samuel 21** what is Gods view of promises made in His name? Look at **Ephesians 2.1-10** how can we express our gratitude at Gods mercy for us? How does this passage parallel what we see in Joshua 9?