

They Did Not Ask
Joshua 9:1-6
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the dangers in not searching things out.

Intro: 1. Throughout scripture mankind is shown the error in taking man at his word.
2. God is the greatest counselor of all, man is reminded of this in Joshua 9.

I. Not what they seem (Joshua 9:1-13)

A. Deception (**v.1-6**)

1. The deception was deliberate.
2. They went to great lengths to deceive

B. Deceitful Words (**v.7-13**)

1. Some commentators point out that even though they knew of the battles of Jericho and Ai that they did not mention them as it was possible the news hadn't reach a "far country" yet.
2. Sincerity got them in, but the truth would come out...

II. Failure to do right brings problems (Joshua 9:14-27)

A. Belief without careful considerations (**v.14-18**)

1. In three days time the truth came out
2. Three days is not a long time, but now they were bound by their word (v.18)

B. Their failure ask of the Lord would come back upon them (v.19-27)

1. They could not kill them because they were bound by their word (**v.19**) now instead they would be made servants (**v.20-21**).
2. Joshua questions them over their actions and tells them they will now be their servants (**v.22-27**)

III. Lessons for us today.

A. A reminder to test the spirits (**1 Jn 4:1**)

1. Sincerity and a "good story" does not mean the truth is being told.
2. These people plotted carefully to deceive, not unlike some today.

B. Things could have been much worse

1. The people who came in could have come with far worse intentions.
2. They could have come to do physical harm.
 - a. Today while this is a possibility, spiritual harm is more likely to the problem.

Application & Conclusion:

1. We must be like the Bereans in search for truth always (**Acts 17:11**).
2. Notice such considerations are not considered extreme, but noble.
 - a. We can learn from such examples.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9