

GIBEONITE CHRISTIANITY
Joshua 9; 2Sa 21
Liptovský Hrádok, 31st January 2016

<p>Jos 9:3-4 But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, ⁴ they on their part acted with cunning... Jos 9:14-15 So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. ¹⁵ 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</p>	<p>John 5:44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not <u>seek the glory that comes from the only God?</u></p>
<p>Jos 9:24 "Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you- so we <u>feared greatly</u> for our lives because of you and did this thing.</p>	<p>Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the <u>spirit of slavery to fall back into fear</u>, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"</p>
<p>Jos 9:21 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. 9:23 Now therefore you are <u>cursed</u>, and some of you shall never be anything but <u>servants</u> (עֲבָדִים), cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God."</p>	<p>Eph 2:19 So then you are <u>no longer strangers</u> and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,</p>
<p>2Sa 21:1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, "There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death."</p>	<p>Gal 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.</p>

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION: THE PLACE FOR WARNINGS IN PREACHING

- 0.1. METAPHORICAL SERMON
- 0.2. APOSTOLIC LETTERS
- 0.3. THE USE OF WARNINGS

1. THE CHRISTIAN COVENANT

- 1.1. WITH THE CHURCH
- 1.2. WITH GOD

2. THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE

- 2.1. AS BEFORE MEN
- 2.2. AS BEFORE GOD

3. THE CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

- 3.1. POWERED BY THE FLESH
- 3.2. POWERED BY THE SPIRIT

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION: THE PLACE FOR WARNINGS IN PREACHING

0.1. METAPHORICAL SERMON

- not an allegory → I do not mean to *expound* the story of the Gibeonites – I use it as an illustration for a kind of sub-standard Christian existence...

0.2. APOSTOLIC LETTERS

- **1Thes 5:14** And we urge you, brothers, (1) **admonish** the idle, (2) **encourage** the fainthearted, (3) **help** the weak, ►►► be patient with them all.

0.3. THE USE OF WARNINGS

- **Heb 6:9** Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things – things that belong to salvation.

1. THE CHRISTIAN COVENANT

- Illustration 1 – the Gibeonites cheat → hypocrisy; lying; mistaken theology...

1.1. WITH THE CHURCH

- Cyprian: *Extra ecclesiae nulla salus* (?)
- the problem of sacramentalism → deceiving God?
- **Ps 78:36-37** But they **flattered** him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues. ³⁷ Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant.
- **Mt 6:1** "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

1.2. WITH GOD

- **John 4:24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship (1) **in spirit** and (2) **truth**
- **Heb 8:10** For this is the **covenant** that I will make **with** the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their **God**, and they shall be my people.
- **Rom 8:16** The **Spirit** himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

2. THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE

- Illustration 2 – the Gibeonites become slaves → Christianity of legal duties (Gal 4 – Hagar, Ishmael)

2.1. AS BEFORE MEN

- **Mt 6:1** "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.
- **Gal 1:10** For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.
- **Lk 19:21** ...I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man (ἄνθρωπος ἀστυερὸς)...

2.2. AS BEFORE GOD

- Os GUINNESS: *The Audience of One* (In "The Call")
- **1Thes 2:4** ...but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.
- **Eph 6:5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. ⁷ With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
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3. THE CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

- Illustration 3 – Gibeonites treated as enemies
- Saul treated the Gibeonites as the gentiles – broke the oath given to them by Joshua
- God was faithful to the Gibeonites – even if they did not belong to his people!

3.1. POWERED BY THE FLESH

- **Gal 5:26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
- **Jas 3:14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and lie against the truth.
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3.2. POWERED BY THE SPIRIT

- **Mt 7:1** Judge not, that you be not judged
- **Rom 12:19** never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "**Vengeance is mine**, I will repay, says the Lord.

4. TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to make covenant of salvation directly with God. There are no substitutes for the Cross of Christ.
- If you consider the Christian life a *hard service*, instead of free self-giving out of gratitude, ask yourself, if your faith is the genuine saving gift from God.
- If other Christians are your judges or competitors, you should check whether you are really born again. You would view other Christians as your family members.