

# Woodcutters and Water Carriers

Joshua 9:1-27

*LifeChanges - January 31, 2013*

## Living in fear causes strange actions

Are the Gibeonites right to be in fear of God's people? 9:24

Does this fear make their choice right?

Most other groups come together to make war – 9:1-2

Gibeon chooses a "ruse", a lie, an elaborate, desperate story – 9:4-6

## The actions of Israel

Questioning the motives – wise – 9:7

Listening, sampling provisions – wise - 9:14

Did not inquire of the Lord – unwise - 9:14

When do we skip the step of asking God for guidance?

What situations cause us to forget asking God?

Live by their oath - 9:19-20 – to avoid wrath and to obey God

Do we live by our word even when it hurts?

When do we apologize and go back on an oath/promise?

Israel makes Gibeonites servants/slaves - 9:20-27

Woodcutters and water carriers...Deut. 29:11 – chop wood, carry water

Is this a good way to live? I wonder if the Gibeonites could have chosen a better way? Was it possible for them to leave, make peace, convert?

## And for us...

What do we get when we choose out of fear?

What do we get when we choose not to listen to God?

God keeps the Gibeonites close to his people – see page 100 in your book

*Being close to the Israelites may have led some of them to God*

Alliances vs. Avoidance – choose neither; choose God – pp.102-103

*Choose to listen carefully to God, to "inquire of the Lord"*

*How can you and I listen to God this week?*

*How can we live not in fear but act with humility and clarity this week?*