


The People of Gibeon

The people of Gibeah were a vile and wicked people. They were wise in cunning and deceit.



This is characteristic of those who are WICKED AND RENOUNCE GOD. THEY ARE A CUNNING PEOPLE.

God had already commanded the people of ancient Israel to destroy those people because of their wickedness.

Those nations that Israel already destroyed included two cities in close proximity to the town of Gibeah.

- Gibeon was a large city quite like a royal city. Perhaps like New York or Paris. It's men were all warriors. All the people were vile and wicked.

When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and the town of Ai, they worked cunningly and craftily pretending to be ambassadors of Joshua's God sent to bring peace and good tidings to Joshua.

They took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy.

They went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel,

➤ “We have come from a far country; now therefore, treaty with us for we are your servants.”

And Joshua said to them,

➤ “Who are you, and where do you come from?”

So they said to him:

- “From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame.

Our people and leaders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them,

➤ "We are your servants; now therefore, make a peace treaty with us."

- This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy.

➤ *And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey.*

Joshua's men said to the Hivites,

- *“Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?”*
- But they said to Joshua, *“We are your servants.”*

So then the men of Israel partook of their provisions;

➤ **WITHOUT ASKING ADVICE AND COUNSEL OF THE LORD.**

SO JOSHUA CAME TO TERMS WITH THE AND MADE
PEACE WITH THEM, and made a covenant with them TO
LET THEM LIVE; and the rulers of the community swore
and oath to them.

And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them.

➤ Then the children of Israel journeyed to war and came to their cities on the third day.

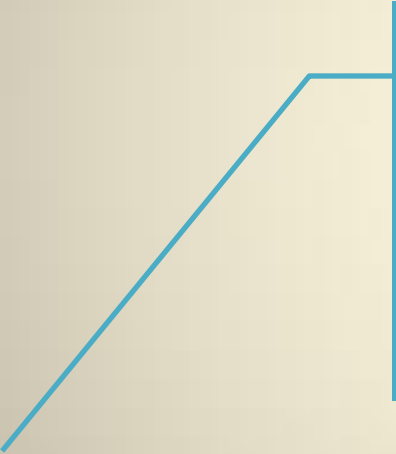
But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel.

➤ And all the congregation complained against the rulers

Two things I want to point out about this moment:

1. Wicked people are cunning and crafty.
2. God's people often do not seek His counsel in matters.

Jesus said: **the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.**



Wicked people are cunning and develop cleverly devised schemes against God's people to cause them to fall and stumble.

God's people should seek advice and counsel from the
LORD on all matters.

Joshua confronted the people of Gibeah **BOLDLY**

- “Why have you deceived us, saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell near us? **NOW THEREFORE, YOU ARE CURSED**, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves...

Two things to mention here

- Wicked people are a **CURSED PEOPLE**
- Wicked people are a **SLAVES TO SIN**



**NONE OF YOU SHALL BE
FREED FROM BEING
SLAVES**

The Curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked to destroy them.

- The way of the wicked is darkness so that they do not know what makes them stumble.

Wicked people are trapped in their own evil.

Wicked people are DECEITFUL and CUNNING.

- While God was destroying King Ben-hadad and his people. Someone devised an evil scheme to deceive Israel.

1 Kings 20.31

One of Ben-Hadad's servants said to the King:

➤ I have an idea: let's surrender to the King of Israel in this manner.

Let's put on prison clothes and ropes and handcuffs on us and go to the King of Israel saying here we are; your servants; and here I am Ben-hadad your brother; I pray you let us live for we are brothers.

1 King 20.32

Thus, the King of Israel was deceived and he let them live.

➤ This thing greatly displeased God and therefore God said to the King: because you let him go I will require your life for his life.

1Kings 40.23

So why should a Christian be friends with the wicked?

- **How can light and darkness share life together?**
- **What does a believer have in common with unbeliever?**
- **How can there be harmony between Christ and the devil?**

- The world teaches TOLERANCE and EQUALITY of people.
- The world teaches discriminating between people is **WRONG**

God draws a distinction between people

God caused a clear distinction to be known in all of Egypt between His People and the Egyptian people.

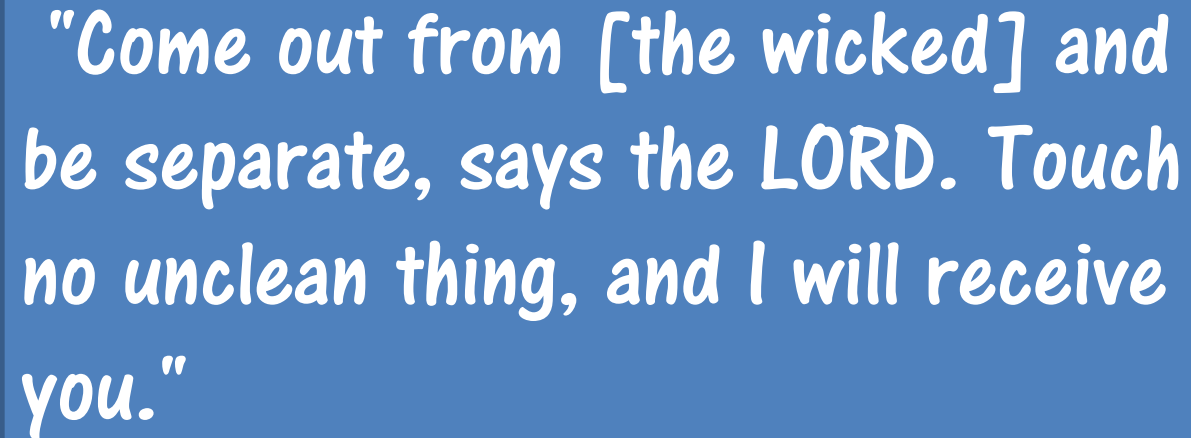
- God said: Against the children of Israel a dog shall not move its tongue against man or beast in order that you may know that the LORD does MAKE DISTINCTION between Egypt and Israel.

God says His people are to distinguish between the righteous and the wicked; between one who serves God and the one who does not.

- God's people are to be **PECULIAR, SEPARATE** and **HOLY!**


Malachi 3:16-17

The Bible teaches that a believer is to be SEPARATED from the wicked sinners and to be people of Salt within the earth.




"Come out from [the wicked] and be separate, says the LORD. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

One more thing: Wicked people live in fear.



“Because your servants **WERE CLEARLY TOLD THAT THE LORD** your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore **WE WERE VERY MUCH AFRAID FOR OUR LIVES BECAUSE OF YOU**, and have done this thing.

Wicked people are afraid of the light lest their deeds be exposed. They do not come into the light.



When Jesus cast out those demons and the man was in his right mind. The whole town came to see and to witness for themselves.

Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. **And they were afraid.**

Luke 8:35

NKJV

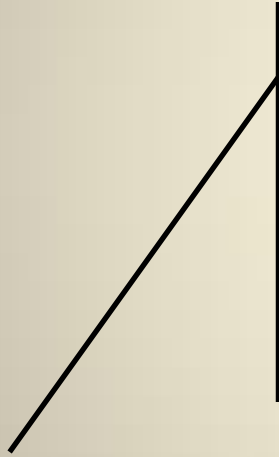
Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear.

Luke 8:37

NKJV

- *Wicked people don't mind being around hypocrites.*
- *Wicked people FEAR a RIGHTEOUS PERSON WHO LIVES HOLY*

Wicked people AND hypocrites hate the light lest their evil deed should be exposed.



For everyone who is evil hates the light and will not come to it fearing their evil deeds will be exposed (John 3.20).

There is an **INTENSE HATRED** against the **RIGHTEOUS PERSON** by the ungodly and wicked.

So what do you think those people ask of Jesus when they saw for themselves?

The whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes **ASKED HIM TO DEPART FROM THEM**, for they were seized with great fear.

And so they **voted Jesus out** of their region, out of their school systems and out of their courts and governments and they took down God's Commandments posted outside the public buildings.

There are Gibeonites all around. They are the Hittites of old. They FEAR righteousness and person living righteous and they will invite that man to depart.

Wicked people are cunning and crafty. They seek to blend in with righteous people for FEAR of being EXPOSED.

➤ They take on the name 'Christian'

Wicked people go to Church to have the appearance of being righteous.

- *These are clouds without water.*
- *These are goats sitting among sheep*

Jesus told a parable about a wedding feast. A certain King had invited all the people to the wedding. But it so happened as the King came in to see the guests that he saw a man there without a wedding garment.

Matthew 22.11

So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And the man was speechless!

➤ Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him out of here.'


Matthew 22:13

Wicked people will scheme their way through life. They are
FALSE Believers!

➤ Let a man **EXAMINE** himself to see whether he has
FAITH IN GOD

1 Corinthians 11.28

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.



Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you who are double-minded.

James 4.8

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

Isaiah 55.6

Let the wicked man forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let the wicked man forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts.

➤ Let him RETURN TO THE LORD, that God may have pity on him and God shall pardon his iniquity.

Isaiah 55:7

This is what the Lord commanded you to do that the Glory of the Lord may appear to you.

Do not burn strange fires

Leviticus 9.6;10.1

By those who come near me, I must be regarded as Holy
that I may reveal myself to the people at large.

Leviticus 10.3

Be ye Holy for I the Lord am Holy

1 Peter 1.16

Closing