

Sermon Topic: Covenant –2 Samuel 21, Joshua 9 – Matt Cassidy

Introduction: Covenants are a big deal! Today we learn about the seriousness that God attaches to the covenants that are made before Him. The marriage covenant is one of these unique covenants before the Lord.

Study Questions:

1. **Read 2 Samuel 21:1-9. What is perplexing to you about this situation? Look at verses 1 & 8-9. How did Saul's break of a covenant effect others? How does this show that sin has a broader effect than just on the one that does the wrong? How have you seen this to be true in your life?**
2. **For the background covenant with the Gibeonites 400 years earlier, read Joshua 9.**
 - a. **Describe the extent that the Gibeonites went to deceive Joshua.**
 - b. **How is verse 14 pivotal to Israel being deceived? How have you seen your own failure to pray and seek God's direction cause you to experience unwanted consequences?**
 - c. **In verse 15 & 19, what is significant about making an oath before the Lord? Why is it important to not make a covenant before God lightly?**
 - d. **How does this heighten your awareness to pray for the leaders of your church and your country?**
3. **The marriage covenant is a unique ceremony in which we call upon God to join us and the man and woman make a covenant with God to fulfill their commitment to one another.**
 - a. **In light of today's lesson why is it important to take the marriage covenant seriously and not enter into it casually?**
 - b. **How does breaking the marriage covenant have a broader impact on more than just the person who breaks it?**
 - c. **There are biblical reasons for divorce, which means that one-person experiences consequences from the sinful choice of breaking the marriage vows by the other person. In this situation how do we stand for the innocent person and biblically confront the sinful choice of the other?**
 - d. **Since the marriage covenant is a unique covenant before God, why is it important for those of us who are married to cultivate our relationship with God and our spouse? Why is it important to seek help if we find ourselves stuck in poor patterns of relating to each other? How can you help others with their marriage?**
 - e. **Why is it important to get pre-marital counseling?**

Pray that the marriages in our church would reflect a desire to please God in fulfilling our covenant.