

**Title: Liar Liar - Joshua 9 1-15**

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Read:

<sup>1-2</sup> All the kings west of the Jordan in the hills and foothills and along the Mediterranean seacoast north toward Lebanon—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Girgashites, and Jebusites—got the news. They came together in a coalition to fight against Joshua and Israel under a single command. <sup>3-6</sup> The people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai and cooked up a ruse. They posed as travellers: their donkeys loaded with patched sacks and mended wineskins, threadbare sandals on their feet, tattered clothes on their bodies, nothing but dry crusts and crumbs for food. They came to Joshua at Gilgal and spoke to the men of Israel, "We've come from a far-off country; make a covenant with us." <sup>7</sup> The men of Israel said to these Hivites, "How do we know you aren't local people? How could we then make a covenant with you?" <sup>8</sup> They said to Joshua, "We'll be your servants." Joshua said, "Who are you now? Where did you come from?" <sup>9-11</sup> They said, "From a far-off country, very far away. Your servants came because we'd heard such great things about God, your God—all those things he did in Egypt! And the two Amorite kings across the Jordan, King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan, who ruled in Ashtaroth! Our leaders and everybody else in our country told us, 'Pack up some food for the road and go meet them. Tell them, We're your servants; make a covenant with us.' <sup>12-13</sup> "This bread was warm from the oven when we packed it and left to come and see you. Now look at it—crusts and crumbs. And our cracked and mended wineskins, good as new when we filled them. And our clothes and sandals, in tatters from the long, hard traveling." <sup>14</sup> The men of Israel looked them over and accepted the evidence. But they didn't ask God about it. <sup>15</sup> So Joshua made peace with them and formalized it with a covenant to guarantee their lives. The leaders of the congregation swore to it.

Think:

When I was a nipper I would always try my luck with my Dad first if I wanted to do something. I would go to Dad and ask him if I could come home late. If I got a no, I would trundle of to Mum and try my luck on her. More often than not I would get a yes. It was a risky gamble though. If my Dad found out, then I would be for the high jump when I got home. I acted all surprised, and felt hard done by, but the truth is I knew my agreement was based around my deceitfulness. That's no different to these guys, who have made a deal with Joshua. Right now they think they are in the clear, but are they? Well we will find out more about that later, but the truth is, any relationship based upon lying and deceit, isn't going to get very far. Jesus says that we are to let our yes be our yes and our no be our no. That's Bible talk for tell the truth. No need to say to your college mates "I promise". Your school mates shouldn't need to hear you swear on someone's life. No,

Jesus says tell the truth all the times and they will know that what comes out of your mouth is worth listening to.

Pray:

Lord I would like to say sorry for the times that I have lied. Please help me tell the truth the whole time. Amen.

Action:

You know if this is an issue you need to deal with or not. If it is, take some time now to make a commitment to God. Bye.