

RIPLEY METHODIST CHURCH
Mid-Derbyshire Methodist Circuit
Minister: Rev Kate Strange
Sunday 13th September

Inside are parts 1 and 2 of a Bible Study from the book of Joshua. Parts 3 and 4 will be next week.

Prayer Group

If you would like our prayer group to pray for any person or situation please contact 01773 512367.

Also if you would like to join the prayer group on WhatsApp.

11 O'clock Prayer Stop - At 11.00am stop and spend a moment in prayer for family, friends and our world.

Prayer Points - Father we approach you boldly with our prayers, knowing that you are there for us and will listen. Firstly we bring thank for all that we have. We say thank you for your son Jesus and the awesome sacrifice that he made for every one of us. Even so Father we don't always do as you ask us, and quite often try to cope in our own way without turning to you. Father we ask for your forgiveness. (pause).

We pray that the new restrictions and local lockdowns will be enough to slow the spread of the virus and save lives. Please bless all who are living and working with it, trying to control it, treating it and doing all they can to prevent it. Also those who are researching and testing a vaccine. We pray that this will be successful. Once more we ask that you will give comfort and peace to every bereaved family as we are reminded of the number who have lost their lives.

Father we are working towards reopening our church for worship and praise to you. Please bless, strengthen and look after all who are involved in this process, so that they are full of your power to meet every eventuality and situation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Introduction

The old testament book of Joshua is about how the Israelites conquered land that had been promised to their ancestor Abraham.

Their forbears had escaped from Egypt, but had not followed God, so the whole generation that left Egypt had died in the desert. This left the children (of Israel) to conquer Canaan, under the leadership of Joshua. Joshua had a great military mind, was very organised and was absolutely loyal to God and dependant on Him.

The land of Canaan had many cities, each with its own king and army. Many cities had high strong walls, so Joshua and his army had to defeat them one by one, for example the famous battle of Jericho.

We join them after the battle of Jericho, and after they have destroyed the city of Ai. (Joshua Chapters 9 and 10).

Part 1

Some people from the city of Gibeon had heard what Joshua had done to the city of Ai. They decided to trick the Israelites. They gathered together old sacks and old cracked wine bags and put them on their donkeys. They put old sandals on their feet and took some old mouldy bread. This made them appear to have travelled a long way. They went to Joshua at his camp near Gilgal. They told Joshua that they came from a far-off land and that their elders had asked them to travel to his camp and make a peace agreement because of the fame of the Lord. They showed Joshua the old cracked wine bags, the dry mouldy bread and their old clothes and sandals as proof that they had travelled a long way. The men of Israel tasted the bread but they did not ask the Lord what to do. Joshua agreed to make peace with the Gibeonites and to let them live. The leaders of the Israelites swore an oath to keep the agreement.

Was Joshua right to make the peace agreement?

Do you think that Joshua should have asked the Lord what to do?

Have you ever met someone who is not what they appear to be? What did you do?

What do you think Joshua will do if he finds out?

Part 2

Three days after making the agreement, the Israelites learned that the Gibeonites actually lived close by. So they travelled to where they came from, and on the third day they arrived at their cities, including the city of Gibeon. But the Israelites did not attack those cities because of the peace agreement they had made. The Israelites grumbled to their leaders, but the leaders said 'We have given our promise before the Lord, so we cannot attack them. We must let them live, otherwise God's anger will be against us for breaking the oath.' Then Joshua called for the original group of Gibeonites. He asked them why they had deceived him by making out that they came from a far-off land. They answered 'We lied to you because we were afraid you would kill us. We heard that the Lord your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all of this land and to kill all of the people who lived in it. That is why we did this.' So Joshua saved their lives but he made them slaves. So they cut wood and carried water for the Israelites, and for the altar of the Lord, wherever he chose it to be. They are still doing this today.

Had Joshua actually made the peace agreement before God?

Was Joshua right to make them slaves?

Did the Gibeonite's plan work?

Funeral Arrangements for Bernard Ault - Bernard's funeral will be held on Tuesday 29th September. There will be a service at the crematorium at 1.00pm for the family followed by a church service at 2.15pm. led by Revd Chris Scotchbrook. Numbers are limited because of Covid-19 restrictions. If you would have attended under normal circumstances, instead please hold the family in prayer at these times. A service of thanksgiving will be held at a later date but it may be some time before this can be arranged. Donations in memory of Bernard are for the Rainbows Hospice in Loughborough. If you wish to make a donation please make your cheque payable to 'Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People' and send it to the funeral director, marked as being in memory of Bernard Ault, at this address: Thomas Ryde & Son, 35 Bridge Street, Belper DE56 1AY.

September Birthdays - Daiffie, Chris W, Don, Karen, Marye and any others we don't know about. Have a lovely day!

Church Stewards: Pat, Elaine, Brian, David, Paul, Chris B, Scott.

Church Secretary: Chris W. Church Treasurer: Sarah.

To submit information or receive this newsletter by email please contact:
scott.handbury@talktalk.net or 01773 513591.

Our website: www.ripleymethodist.co.uk

Circuit website: www.mid-derbyshire-methodist.org.uk