



Sin In The Camp!
Joshua 7:10-12

Observations

- From our last lesson in Joshua, as Israel marches through Canaan, we learned of the power that God will demonstrate on the enemies of His children (The Battle of Jericho)
- The true saying, *“Let God Fight Your Battles,”* is never more vividly demonstrated than God’s obliteration of the great walled city of Jericho for the children of Israel. Remember, Canaan was already inhabited
- Without God, Israel was no match for Jericho, but with God the walls of the city fell flat, and the Israelites captured the city, not losing one soldier
- The love God expressed toward His children was Impressive then, and it’s a lesson of encouragement for us today, Romans 8:35-39, Romans 15:4



- The next city to capture was called “Ai,” and Joshua sent spies to view the city to assess their next victim. They reported that the city was small, needing possibly only two or three thousand soldiers to easily take it
- So, only a few thousand were sent to capture Ai, but unfortunately, the soldiers of Israel had to run for their lives, and several soldiers were killed (36), causing significant discouragement to Joshua and the Israelite nation
- The Bible says that Joshua was distraught (he hadn’t lost any lives on their journey up until now) and wondered to God, “what went wrong?” Look at Joshua 7:7,

“Alas, Sovereign Lord, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us?” The Canaanites ... and other people will hear about this, surround us, and wipe out our name from the earth.” (Sometimes, things don’t happen for God’s people like we think they should)

Observations

- Instead of calmly finding out the cause of the disaster, Joshua wondered why God allowed this to happen to him
- What Joshua didn't realize is that sometimes we face our own difficulties because of our own sins, (Isaiah 59:1-2), (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- Sometimes an "Honest Self Examination of Our Own Lives" is needed.

What Negative Role Did I Play in Losing My Job?

What Negative Role Did I Play In the Break-up?

Did I Act Out Of My Own Passion or God's Will?

God Teaches Us That Meaningful Relationships Are Sacrificial Relationships! Philippians 2:5-9

Joshua's Self Examination Revealed That Israel Had Sinned Against God!

Joshua Had Given Israel Instructions Concerning the Cities That They Captured in Canaan

Joshua 6:18-19 (N.I.V.)

"... [K]eep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into His treasury."

- **And so Joshua as a defeated leader (36 soldiers dead) now struggling with his own sense of loss and humiliation before his people, falls down before the ark of God (renting his clothes) Joshua 7:6-7**
- **Now, he begins to question his own future, and allows his imagination to run wild with the possible consequences of his failures**
- **Point: When we have difficulties and disappointments we shouldn't allow ourselves to imagine the worst, as if God is no longer in control**
- **Point: We as children of God need to keep our hearts, *"STAYED ON JESUS,"* as the song says; Hebrews 12:1-2**
- **Remember, we believe that there is a PURPOSE FOR OUR TRIALS OR DIFFICULTIES, James 1:2-4, *"Count it all joy my brethren when you fall into divers temptations knowing"***

The Cause of Their Defeat Was Soon Brought to the Light

- God told Joshua in Joshua 7:10 to, *“Get thee up,”* in other words, “stop lying around distraught and face the truth!”
- The Problem: A family of the Israelite nation had stolen some of the captured treasures from Jericho, which they had been told not to do, and placed them, verse 11, “among their own stuff!”
- And so, divine measures were immediately taken to discover the transgressor. God leads Joshua in the separation process
First, the Tribe of the transgressor was separated (Judah)
Then, the Family of the transgressor was separated (Zarhites)
Then, the Household of the transgressor was separated (Zabdi)
Then, the Man of the household was separated (Achan).

Notice the Wisdom Now of Joshua's Inquiry

- Joshua didn't "proactively" charge Achan with anything
- In Verse 19, he simply said, "Give glory to the Lord and honor him Tell me what you have done"
- Look at Revelation 16:9, in the apocalyptic writings of the apostle John as he relates a similar narrative:

"And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues; and they repented not to give him glory."

- The Point: One way that we give God glory is that we actually confess what God already knows about us; James 5:16
- When we are truly repentant of our wrongs, we actually are willing to glorify God by voluntarily condemning ourselves; Isaiah 64:6

What Are the Lessons to Learn From This Episode in the Lives of the Children of Israel?

- **Be sure that your sin will find you out, if not in this world, then that which is to come; Numbers 32:23**
- **“Sins of the heart,” like pride, selfishness, and evil attitudes, may remain “refined and concealed” until the afterlife**

(The parables of the rich fool, in Luke 12, and the rich man in Luke 16, are classic examples of creating a false inner and outer self-image, that is held accountable to God on the other side)

- **Notice that it was not the eyes of man that detected Achan’s sin, but the eyes of God, and the hand of God, that arrested him**
- **The disaster in the city of Ai caused him very little anxiety until God made him realize that he was responsible for it all**
- **His family was involved and executed for his sin; Joshua 7:24**

Remember:

***If We Wait to Own Our Sins
in the Afterlife, It Will Be
Too Late!***

***Make Your Peace With God
Now, While There is Time!***



The Plan Of Salvation

- **Hear the Gospel** **Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel** **Acts 15:7**
- **Repent of Sins** **Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ** **Acts 8:37**
- **Be Baptized** **Acts 8:38**

