

Joshua 7-8 – 22 July 2021

“True Contentment”

Introduction

*The theme of the Book of Joshua could be “*Will Israel have faith and believe God?*”

*The prosperity of Israel’s future life will be directly proportional to:

*How well (or not) they exterminate the evil, sinful lifestyles of the Canaanites

*How well they act on implementing God’s ways

*In Joshua 5-6 Israel just conquered 1st city Jericho

*They’re living on a high right now, very excited

*We often only think of remaining content during the hard times, but what does true contentment look like during the good times?

***Today we’re gonna look at 4 principles of true contentment**

1st principle of true contentment is: Don't live in false contentment (Chap 7:1-13)

Intro

1. False contentment is the idea that “*I have what I need apart from God*”
2. False contentment will cause you to forget God

Read Chap 7:1

1. Remember, all the spoils from Jericho were to go to the Lord...Achan stole some for himself
2. Interesting, Achan sinned & they're all guilty
 - a. Couldn't have stolen w/o someone knowing
 - b. The other's sin is know & not dealing w/ it
 - i. How does evil triumph? Good men do nothing

Read Chap 7:2-5

1. Notice Joshua 6:2 starts w/ God & Joshua 7:2 starts w/ Joshua (forgot to keep God as leader in all)
2. “Oh, I got this little thing God”
3. Little things become big things when people die

Read Chap 7:6-7

1. Even this is a form of false contentment – to settle for less than God has for you
2. B/c of our own sin, we often hold back & settle for less than what God wants to bless us with

Read Chap 7:8-10

1. Lord asks him, “Why pray at a time like this?”
2. Joshua should have prayed BEFORE acting on Ai, but so often we act and THEN pray
3. Israel had a false sense of contentment & confidence within themselves
 - a. Contentment is in finding God, but still be pursuing Him. (Tozier called this “the soul’s paradox of love)

Read Chap 7:11-12

1. The oneness of the people of God
 - a. Read I Cor 12:26 – even in family this is true
2. What a blessing that God would reveal this

Read Chap 7:13

1. We're helpless w/o God in even smallest battle
2. We never get to the point when we no longer need God's help. "God, I got this one"
3. Don't have contentment w/i self, we're helpless

2nd principle of true contentment is: Don't live in discontentment (Chap 7:14-26)

Intro

1. Discontentment is the idea that "*I don't have what I need from God*"
2. Discontentment will cause you to doubt God

Read Chap 7:14-19

1. Achan is called out & asked to repent
2. Achan was discontent & unsatisfied w/ God's provision & had pride of self – he deserves more!

Read Chap 7:20-23

1. Getting caught & confessing is completely different than repenting & confessing
 - a. Repenting & confessing means you turned around from your deceitful path & came back to confess & make it right
 - b. Getting caught & confessing means you were met ON your deceitful path & confessed attempting to limit your punishment
2. Examples
 - a. David got caught & confessed to Nathan about taking Bathsheba – punishment came
 - b. The Prodigal Son came to his father repented & confessed – no punishment came

Read Chap 7:24-26

1. So the stoning & burning of Achan's family
2. All those with knowledge, who did nothing, are killed to limit this evil heart from spreading
3. Remember the regret of sin BEFORE we sin

3rd principle of true contentment is: Accept God's timeframe for blessings (Chap 8:1-29)

Read Chap 8:1

1. Now the Lord is back in charge
2. If Chap 7 had begun with, “The Lord said...go up to Ai...” how things would've been different

Read Chap 8:2

1. If Achan had only waited for God's timing, he would have been rich with spoil!
2. If God denies you something that is good...
 - a. It may actually not be good at all
 - b. He may have something different or better that He wants for us
 - c. Or He may just want us to wait
3. Read Eph 1:3
 - a. If you received zero additional blessings in your life, are you content with knowing that one day soon you'll inherit a perfect eternal life with Jesus?

Read Chap 8:3-22

1. Taking the city with an ambush & fake fleeing
2. Receiving the blessings from this city was never in doubt
 - a. How & when it would happen was always the question
 - b. God always wants “the how” to be at His command and by His power

Read Chap 8:23-27

1. They receive the spoils of the city b/c Joshua “drew not his hand back” & purified Israel & then Ai
2. Be content with God’s timing
 - a. A frail but holy people will inherit blessings
 - b. A powerful but impure people, God will resist

Read Chap 8:28-29

1. Ai’s utter destruction should warn the other Canaanites to repent
2. The just should be content in waiting, b/c God’s patiently trying to bring others into salvation

4th principle of true contentment is: Examine the greatness of relationship w/ God (Chap 8:30-35)

Intro

1. In taking time to examine what God has already giving you, there is rest & contentment
2. We're here reminded to stay close to God

Read Chap 8:30-31

1. These were directions given to Israel in Deut 27
2. Building the altar on Mt Ebal puts the focus **BACK** on God and His abilities

Read Chap 8:32

1. Joshua writes a copy of the Law
2. Again, here is the acknowledgment that relationship w/ God is found in His written Word

Read Chap 8:33-35

1. On 2 mts reading the blessings & cursings
2. There's always a corporate element of examining the greatness of God

Conclusion

Have you experienced a lack of satisfaction in life?
Today, the Lord has given us some keys to true contentment...during the good times

1. Don't live in false contentment

- a. Contentment in yourself is empty & weak
- b. Rely on God, even in the little things

2. Don't live in discontentment

- a. Are you satisfied w/ where God has you?
- b. Having God is having EVERYTHING

3. Accept God's timeframe for blessing

- a. You may be on course for even great blessings, but only God knows when
- b. The greatest blessing is yet to come when we see Jesus face to face on His timetable

4. Examine the greatness of relationship w/ God

- a. Stare into the face of Jesus for a hot minute and you may just begin to see the greatness of what we have in Jesus Christ!