

Joshua 7:22 “So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.”

Joshua 7:23 “They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord.”

C. Achan, his family faced calamity.

Joshua 7:24 “Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor.”

Joshua 7:25 “Joshua said, “Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today. Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.”

Joshua 7:26 “Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.”

How can we apply this passage to our life?

A. Be on guard against temptations that will come your way.

Galatians 5:17 “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”

1 John 2:15 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Luke 22:40 “On reaching the place, He said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.”

Luke 22:40b “... Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

B. Be prepared to battle temptation.

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee the evil desires of the youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Matthew 22:37 “Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[38] This is the first and greatest commandment.^[39] And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you.”

C. Be humble and repent when you sin against the Lord.

Proverbs 28:13 “Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

The Agony of Defeat!

Joshua 7:1-26

Lesson #11

11/10/24

Joshua 6:17 “The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.”

Joshua 6:18 “But keep 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.”

Joshua 6:19 “All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.”

Joshua 7:1 “But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So, the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.”

I. Joshua and his spies created their own battle plan!

A. Joshua sent out men to spy on Ai.

Joshua 7:2 “Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So, the men went up and spied out Ai.”

B. Joshua signed off on the plan given by the spies.

1. Joshua didn’t ask the Lord for His plan.

Joshua 7:3 “When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 8:13 “To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”

James 4:6b “... God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

1 Corinthians 10:12 “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall.”

2. Joshua chose the advice of his spies.

Joshua 7:4a “So about three thousand went up;”

Proverbs 16:9 “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.”

Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.”

II. Joshua and his men were clobbered during battle!

A. The men of Israel suffered defeat in battle.

Joshua 7:4b "... but they were routed by the men of Ai."

Joshua 7:5 "Who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes."

B. The people were seized with fear.

Joshua 7:5b "... At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water."

III. Joshua and the leaders cried out to the Lord!

A. The leaders sought the Lord.

Joshua 7:6 "Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads."

Joshua 7:7 "And Joshua said, "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? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!"

Joshua 7:8 "Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies?"

Joshua 7:9 "The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"

B. The Lord told Joshua there is sin among the people.

Joshua 7:10 "The Lord said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?"

Joshua 7:11 "Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions."

Exodus 20:15 "You shall not steal."

Exodus 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Joshua 7:12 "That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction."

IV. Joshua and the Israelites were to confront the culprit.

A. The people were to prepare themselves spiritually.

Joshua 7:13 "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.'"

B. The Lord would expose the one to be punished.

Joshua 7:14 "In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the Lord chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the Lord chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the Lord chooses shall come forward man by man."

Joshua 7:15 "Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the Lord and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!"

C. Joshua had the people present themselves.

Joshua 7:16 "Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen."

Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."

Joshua 7:17 "The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen."

Joshua 7:18 "Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen."

Joshua 7:19 "Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, & honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

V. Joshua heard the confession of Achan.

A. Achan confessed his sin.

Joshua 7:20 "Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done:"

1. He saw the items.

Joshua 7:21a "When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels...."

2. He wanted the items so he seized them.

Joshua 7:21b "... I coveted them and took them"

3. He stored them in his tent.

Joshua 7:21d "... They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

B. Achan's plunder was confiscated.