

Avoiding The Mistakes Of Achan - Sunday AM 01/07/18

Introduction:

Sometimes it is hard to relate to Bible characters; some had multiple wives, different cultures, odd names. But people are people and God's word is God's word. One person we can learn from and ask if we are following in his footsteps is Achan.

I) The Battle of Ai

A) *Joshua 7.1-9*

1. A small and in some ways insignificant city, only 3000 soldiers went up to conquer it.
2. This was after the defeat of Jericho.
3. Thirty-six men of Israel were killed and Ai was still standing strong, *v. 5*
4. Joshua and the people were devastated, *v. 6-9*.
5. If they can't take this lowly city, then they would not be able to conquer Canaan.

B) The Sin of Achan, *v. 10*

1. God discloses the reason for the defeat, *v. 10-13*.
 - a. God had delivered Jericho into their hands.
 - b. God told the children of Israel to take nothing from Jericho, *Joshua 6.18-19*.
2. Someone had taken something from Jericho and the punishment was revealed, *Joshua 7.15*.
3. It was then revealed that it was Achan, *v. 18*
4. Achan shows and tells what he had done, *v. 20-22*.

5. Achan's punishment, *v. 24-26*.
 - a. The possessions were burned.
 - b. Achan and his family were stoned and burned.

II) Learning From Achan

A) Achan lusted after things that were forbidden

1. Normally we think of "covetousness" a desire for things. Lust is the desire for unlawful things.
2. Achan lusted for the gold and silver.
3. People may lust after things that are forbidden today.
1 Corinthians 10.6
 - a. Someone else's spouse, *Matthew 5.28*.
 - b. Someone of the same sex, *Romans 1.27*
 - c. Drunkenness, drugs, etc.

B) Achan thought he could hide things from God

1. He hid it under his tent.
2. God is everywhere and knows all, *Psalms 139.12*
3. Darkness does not conceal sin, going somewhere else does not remove it, time does not diminish it; only the blood of Christ washes away sin, *Acts 22.16*.

C) Achan's sin affected innocent people

1. Thirty-six innocent men died at Ai because of Achan.
2. Innocent people were carried off into captivity when Israel and Judah were conquered because of the sins of the Kings, priest, and others.

3. A lot of time we don't think about and see the results of sin.
4. The drunk driver may never see the family of one killed in an auto accident.
5. False teachers does see those who will be carried away by their false teaching later on.
6. The sexually immoral may not see the example they are providing for others who will be encouraged to be sexually immoral. The same for the drunkard.
7. Think about those who will be harmed by your influence.

D) Achan's sin affected his family

1. Did Achan think about his family in taking from Jericho?
2. But they felt the consequences of his actions.
3. Think of how David's sin with Bathsheba affected his family, *2 Samuel 12.10,11,14*
4. Moms and dads sometimes make short-sighted decisions without think about their families.
 - a. Decide to leave home and their children repeat the fruits of a home without a mother and father.
 - b. Perhaps their drunkenness and its long term affects on their children.
 - c. Stop going to church without thinking about their children and the long term affects of growing up without knowing God.

5. Father's not being the spiritual leader of the family.
Etc.
6. Think of how you are affecting your family, children, spouse, brothers, sisters, etc.

Conclusion:

There are many Achans out there today. We see how the one in the Bible ended up. We want to avoid his mistakes - do not lust after evil things, live so as to be seen by God, provide a good example to those around you, think of you family when you make your decisions.