

Trapped (Trap of Covetousness), Rebuked, Restored (Joshua 7-8)

Welcome:

We see warnings in Scripture about sin and its consequences, and yet we persist in thinking that maybe the warning does not apply to us. We think we can keep sinning, even if we put ourselves in a position of temptation. Or we think that if we sin, we surely won't face the consequences. We can keep it hidden or contained. Somehow, we will be exempt.

Word: (Read **Joshua 7:1 – 8:35** in its entirety.)

“The story of Achan is filled with great warnings. We should examine our hearts to see if we, like Achan, may be inclined to ignore God's commands and the welfare of His people in order to satisfy our own selfish desire.

We should ask ourselves whether we, like Joshua and the army of Israel, have grown confident in ourselves and taken our eyes off of God, our true source of strength.

The story of Achan is a cautionary tale about the dangers of disobedience. The story of the defeat of Ai is a comforting tale about God's ongoing commitment to blessing His people. He disciplined them in order to ready them for greater victories.” - Fearless Leadership by Gene Getz

Discussion Questions: (The Gospel Project – Ed Stetzer & Trevin Wax)

1. The sin of one man affected all of Israel (**Joshua 7:1 – 12**).
 - a. What aspects of God's goodness to you are you most likely to take for granted?
 - b. What are some examples of one person's sin leading to terrible consequences for others?
 - c. Why do you think God allowed all the people to suffer when just one man committed the offense?
2. The penalty of sin is death (**Joshua 7:19-26**)
 - a. Ever since Adam hid from God in the garden, we have been trying to hide our sin. What are some ways we can help each other bring our sin out into the open?
 - b. What happens when we minimize the horrible consequences of our sin?
 - c. Why does sin deserve death?
3. Second chances with God (**Joshua 8:1-29**)
 - a. After the sin in Israel was dealt with, God told Joshua not to be discouraged or afraid. What is the connection between hidden sin and discouragement? Or hidden sin and fear?
 - b. What are some areas of life in which we often need second chances?
 - c. What role does suffering and the discipline of God play in preparing a person to appreciate and benefit from a “second chance”?
4. Restoration (**Joshua 8:30-35**)
 - a. How can we encourage one another to remember our dependence upon God's power and provision in our lives?
 - b. What are some of the consequences of sin in our community that our church/group can address together with the gospel of Jesus?
 - c. Identify some steps you will take to battle against lingering sin in your life that God's name might be exalted through your testimony and example.