

Scriptures for Today: Joshua 7:1-26 – Achan’s sin troubles all Israel; Joshua presumes victory

Today’s Message: Sin Troubles – *The grave and grievous cost of sins against Almighty God.*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we witnessed God’s plan to *utterly destroy* Jericho. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell! Today, we begin with a most troubling word in the Bible – ____! We will see the impact of one man’s sin on his entire house and all of Israel. And, we will remember how sin will take you _____ than you want to go. It will be a good day to fear God and _____. A day to align every area of our lives with the holy Bible. While focusing on Achan, it may be easy for us to gloss over a sin committed by Joshua (and the men with him) that plagues us and grieves the Spirit every day – _____. With confidence in God’s power and presence, Joshua will launch a battle without God’s guidance.

LEARNING TOGETHER

1. The Text Joshua 7:1-26

- **The “BUT” factor** – In the midst of a great victory and God’s glory, Achan _____ to sin.

7:1 *“But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing...”*

- **Presumptuous sins** – Joshua’s confidence was spoiled by _____ to seek God’s direction.

7:2-9 *“Alas, O Lord GOD, **wherefore hast thou** at all brought this people...”*

- **God’s loving rebuke** – _____ kept God’s people from being able to stand before the enemy.

7:10-15 *“And the LORD said unto Joshua, **Get thee up**; wherefore liest thou...”*

- **Man by man** – Joshua brought **every** tribe, family and _____ into judgment that day.

7:16-19 *“Joshua said unto Achan, **My son**, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD...”*

- **The far-reach of sin** – Achan’s sin _____ him his family; brought fear and holiness to Israel.

7:20-26 *“And **all Israel stoned him with stones**, and burned them with fire...”*

2. The History Numbers 27:18-23 (Eleazar); Exodus 20:17 (Covetousness)

- **Eleazar** – Eleazar the priest was God’s special gift to Joshua to guide him as he led God’s people. Joshua was to stand before Eleazar, who was to ask counsel for him to God. At his word, they would **go**. At his word, they would **come**.

Numbers 27:18-23; 14:39-45; Deuteronomy 1:41-46; 17:12-13

NOTE There was a death penalty imposed by God for the man who did not hearken to the priest (God's minister), or unto the judge. The result of the death penalty in this case was to cause God's people to fear and do not more presumptuously!

- **Covetousness** – Achan knew what Joshua had commanded from God. He knew that God was to get ALL the silver and the gold. But, when he **SAW** it and that goodly Babylonish garment, he **wanted** it!! That cursed sin runs deep in the saints all through the holy Book of God. How can you escape it? Love God more!
Ex 20:17; Gen 3:6; Jud 14:1; 2 Sam 11:1-5; Rom 1:29; 7:7; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5

NOTE Of all the sins that troubled Saul, he could not escape Commandment #10! It was his **lust** which brought him guilty to the judgment bar of God. In his NT letters, he preached it as fleshly idolatry and wickedness! Lust brings trouble!

3. The Lessons Psalm 19:13; Hosea 8:7; Isaiah 65:10; Hosea 2:15

✓ *Joshua and his leaders were confident in God and themselves to go to Ai without asking.*

- **Presumptuous sins** – David prayed to God to keep him back from presumptuous sins.

Psalm 19:13 *“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins...”*

2 Pet 2:10 *“...them that **walk after the flesh...** Presumptuous are they, selfwilled”*

Truth: Presumption is “supposition of truth _____ seeking guidance from God.”

Learning: How often we must be presumptuous every day! Stop. Pray. Listen.

✓ *Achan's sins against God caused trouble for all of God's people; it brought harm and loss.*

- **Sin troubles** – Imagine Achan's horror as his family was being hit with stones and burned?

1 Chron 2:7 *“Achar, **the troubler of Israel**, who transgressed in the thing accursed.”*

Hosea 8:7 *“For **they have sown the wind**, and they shall reap the whirlwind...”*

Truth: Sin is deceitful. Sin brings curses and _____ to a family. Sin reaps hell.

Learning: What sinful desire or pleasure is worth a legacy of pain, death and hell?

✓ *The valley of Achor would be a perpetual reminder of sin's curse and reach; **But God...***

- **Grace that is greater** – God can take a life and legacy of curses and turn it for His glory!

Isaiah 65:10 *“...and **the valley of Achor** a place for the herds to lie down in...”*

Hosea 2:15 *“I will give her her vineyards... **the valley of Achor** for a door of hope...”*

Truth: God's grace is _____ than all our sin! Humility & repentance brings grace!

Learning: If you will humbly repent, God can turn your calamity into a blessing!