

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Joshua 7:1-26

- Israel has begun its conquest of the Promise Land and it starts with the city of Jericho, and its here The Lord shows Israel that its not by Might nor by Power by its by His Spirit, as they win the battle and take the city just by walking in obedience to the Lord's Word. But now that the battle is won the question is will they continue to listen to God's Word or will they become overconfident and believe that they can get the victory without the obedience.

#### V1-26

- **V1** whenever a chapter opens with the word "but" you know that trouble lies ahead, were told that a soldier named "**Achan**" has disregarded what God said about taking anything that was deemed accursed, and claiming it as their own. This unbeknown to Joshua has caused the Lord to become very angry against the children of Israel, I know what many of you are thinking, how can one person's sin cause an entire people to get on the wrong side of God's anger, as you'll see Israel as a whole has become disobedient not just Achan.
- **V2-5** after the victory at Jericho Joshua doesn't go back to Gilgal the place where the altar was and seek the Lord's counsel, instead he sends soldiers ahead to a place called "AI" and with a hint of self confidence decides to not send the entire army but just three thousand soldiers believing that "**AI**" is a small city and therefore easy for them to conquer.
- To his and Israel's surprise they get soundly defeated, and instead of them having the enemy on the run they chase Israel back to their camp causing the hearts of the people to become discouraged. "**AI**" means heap, its just a dump of a small town, we don't need to pray, we don't need to send in our best, we just need to show up and we'll get the victory just like at Jericho. This is what happens when we get overconfident in ourselves, we start to think that we achieved the victory through our own might and our own strength.
- The key wasn't that Israel showed up and therefore Jericho fell, more importantly it was God Who was standing behind them that enabled them to prevail against the enemy. We know that Achan's sin has grieved the Lord, but its also Joshua's failure to seek the Lord before battle that has contributed to this defeat, so the combination of Achan's sin which has grieved the Spirit, and Joshua's sin which has quenched the Spirit, has led to death and discouragement, as thirty six men needlessly lose their lives as the nation loses hope.
- **V6-9** just that fast the people hearts melt and became as water, **2:11** Rahab said that was the state of the enemies heart, now because of disobedience on both Achan's and the leaders part the children of Israel who was on a spiritual high initially because of victory is now on a downward spiral because of defeat.

- In **Deut 11:11** Moses described the promised land as a land of hills and valleys, that statement also is a description of the life of faith for all believers, for like Israel we also experience both peaks of victory and valleys of discouragement, the key is will we persevere through the valleys or collapse in despair. Joshua does the correct thing and makes a U-turn tearing his clothes and falling on his face before the Lord all day until evening, and asking why has this happened? Have you brought us over here to deliver us to the Canaanites?
- Did the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh, have it right and we should have stayed on the other side of the Jordan River, when the other nations hear about this that we got soundly defeated by “**AI**” that little dump of a town then the rest of the Canaanites are going to gather together and wipe us out and then trample over Your great Name, is that what you want? Joshua takes the responsibility of defeat and victory and puts it back to where it belonged all the time, squarely in the Hands of the Lord.
- **V10-12** I love how the Lord tells Joshua to get up, asking why are you still lying on your face, it’s a time to repent and a time to act, he has already repented now its time to take action. Notice God tells Joshua that Israel sinned, not just Achan, when one person hurts it affects the whole of God’s people, Israel wasn’t just a collection of tribes, clans, families, and individuals they were one people, and when one person decides to do their own thing it impacts everyone, I know we don’t like to think like this but that is how God set it up.
- Because one man has taken that which the Lord said to leave alone it has caused the entire military campaign to shut down, and if you don’t get rid of this thing there will be no further movement also. **V13-15** in telling Joshua to sanctify himself and then present yourself then The Lord will tell him how to identify who it is that has done such a thing, proves to Joshua and the rest of the leaders that if they would have set themselves apart and sought the Lord first before sending anyone out on any battles maybe all of this could have been avoided.
- **V16-19** although the identity of the sinning family was unknown to Joshua it was known to God, don’t ever forget that secret sin on earth is open scandal before God > **Jer 23:23-24**. Joshua lets him know that confession of sin brings glory to God why? Because its us agreeing with the Lord that what He has said is wrong and shouldn’t have any place in our hearts and lives.
- **V20-23** Achan and his family are enticed by the beauty of the accursed thing, sin might look good, feel good, seem good but in the end its not good leading to death > **Heb 11:25-26**. **V24-26** this small thing cost Achan and his entire family their lives why? **1Cor 5:6**- says a little leaven leavens the whole lump, translation: a small amount of sin accepted and tolerated and entire group, and you will no longer have power over the enemy, but he will now get a stronghold over you. Which is why we see an entire family being destroyed.

- **Deut 24:16** tells us that innocent family members were not to be punished for the sins of their relatives, this meant that once Achan took the forbidden stuff he convinced the others that it was okay to keep. Something else to take note of, notice he also had silver and gold which was supposed to be dedicated to the Lord but he kept it for himself.
- Then God burned everything, including the gold and silver, God doesn't need any of our stuff, it's a blessing that we get to give it to Him and He will receive it from our hands. **V25** Achan name means trouble, and he brought trouble on himself and on his family, but because of repentance the trouble only lasted for a little while on the people who repented.