



THE GOOD  
AND THE BAD  
AND THE UGLY

CHARACTER STUDIES

# Joshua 6:15-19

<sup>15</sup>Early on the seventh day, they started at dawn and marched around the city seven times in the same way. That was the only day they marched around the city seven times.

<sup>16</sup>After the seventh time, the priests blew the rams' horns, and Joshua said to the troops, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city. <sup>17</sup>But the city and everything in it are set apart to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the messengers we sent.

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 6:15-19

<sup>18</sup>But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and make trouble for it. <sup>19</sup>For all the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the Lord and must go into the Lord's treasury."

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>1</sup>The Israelites, however, were unfaithful regarding the things set apart for destruction. Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of what was set apart, and the Lord's anger burned against the Israelites.



# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>2</sup>Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and scout the land." So the men went up and scouted Ai.

<sup>3</sup>After returning to Joshua they reported to him, "Don't send all the people, but send about two thousand or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since the people of Ai are so few, don't wear out all our people there."

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>4</sup>So about three thousand men went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. <sup>5</sup>The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of them and chased them from outside the city gate to the quarries, striking them down on the descent. As a result, the people lost heart.

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>6</sup>Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord until evening, as did the elders of Israel; they all put dust on their heads.

<sup>7</sup>"Oh, Lord God," Joshua said, "why did you ever bring these people across the Jordan to hand us over to the Amorites for our destruction? If only we had been content to remain on the other side of the Jordan!"

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>8</sup>What can I say, Lord, now that Israel has turned its back and run from its enemies? <sup>9</sup>When the Canaanites and all who live in the land hear about this, they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. Then what will you do about your great name?"

**THE UGLY**



## **Joshua 7:10**

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord then said to Joshua, "Stand up! Why have you fallen facedown?"**

## **Joshua 8:1**

**<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged."**



# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>11</sup>Israel has sinned. They have violated my covenant that I appointed for them. They have taken some of what was set apart. They have stolen, deceived, and put those things with their own belongings. <sup>12</sup>This is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies. They will turn their backs and run from their enemies, because they have been set apart for destruction. I will no longer be with you unless you remove from among you what is set apart.

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>13</sup>Go and consecrate the people. Tell them to consecrate themselves for tomorrow, for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are things that are set apart among you, Israel. You will not be able to stand against your enemies until you remove what is set apart. <sup>14</sup>In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the Lord selects is to come forward clan by clan. The clan the Lord selects is to come forward family by family. The family the Lord selects is to come forward man by man.

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>15</sup>The one who is caught with the things set apart must be burned, along with everything he has, because he has violated the Lord's covenant and committed an outrage in Israel."



# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>16</sup>Joshua got up early the next morning. He had Israel come forward tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was selected.

<sup>17</sup>He had the clans of Judah come forward, and the Zerahite clan was selected. He had the Zerahite clan come forward by heads of families, and Zabdi was selected. <sup>18</sup>He then had Zabdi's family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected.



# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>19</sup>So Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and make a confession to him. I urge you, tell me what you have done. Don't hide anything from me."

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>20</sup>Achan replied to Joshua, "It is true. I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I did:

<sup>21</sup>When I saw among the spoils a beautiful cloak from Babylon, five pounds of silver, and a bar of gold weighing a pound and a quarter, I coveted them and took them. You can see for yourself. They are concealed in the ground inside my tent, with the silver under the cloak."

**THE UGLY**

# James 1:13-18

<sup>13</sup>No one undergoing a trial should say, "I am being tempted by God," since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn't tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. <sup>15</sup>Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

**THE UGLY**



# James 1:13-18

<sup>16</sup>Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.  
<sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup>By his own choice, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.



# Cycle of Sin

- I Saw
- I Coveted
- I Took
- I Hid

**THE UGLY**

# Cycle of Sin

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## Genesis 3:6–7 (CSB)

<sup>6</sup>The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**THE UGLY**

# Proverbs 28:13

<sup>13</sup>The one who conceals his sins  
will not prosper,  
but whoever confesses and renounces them  
will find mercy.



# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>22</sup>So Joshua sent messengers who ran to the tent, and there was the cloak, concealed in his tent, with the silver underneath. <sup>23</sup>They took the things from inside the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and spread them out in the Lord's presence.

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>24</sup>Then Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the cloak, and the bar of gold, his sons and daughters, his ox, donkey, and sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 7:1-26

<sup>25</sup> Joshua said, "Why have you brought us trouble? Today the Lord will bring you trouble!" So all Israel stoned them to death. They burned their bodies, threw stones on them, <sup>26</sup>and raised over him a large pile of rocks that remains still today. Then the Lord turned from his burning anger. Therefore that place is called the Valley of Achor still today.

**THE UGLY**

# Joshua 8:1-2

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged. Take all the troops with you and go attack Ai. Look, I have handed over to you the king of Ai, his people, city, and land. <sup>2</sup>Treat Ai and its king as you did Jericho and its king, except that you may plunder its spoil and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."





# Arc of Redemption - God

1. Harshness & Cruelty of God!

**THE UGLY**

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**THE UGLY**

# Genesis 15:13-16

<sup>13</sup>Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know this for certain: Your offspring will be resident aliens for four hundred years in a land that does not belong to them and will be enslaved and oppressed. <sup>14</sup>However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterward they will go out with many possessions. <sup>15</sup>But you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup>In the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

**THE UGLY**

# Deuteronomy 9:1-6

## WARNING AGAINST SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

<sup>1</sup>"Listen, Israel: Today you are about to cross the Jordan to enter and drive out nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities fortified to the heavens. <sup>2</sup>The people are strong and tall, the descendants of the Anakim. You know about them and you have heard it said about them, 'Who can stand up to the sons of Anak?' <sup>3</sup>But understand that today the Lord your God will cross over ahead of you as a consuming fire; he will devastate and subdue them before you. You will drive them out and destroy them swiftly, as the Lord has told you.

**THE UGLY**

# Deuteronomy 9:1-6

<sup>4</sup>When the Lord your God drives them out before you, do not say to yourself, 'The Lord brought me in to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.' Instead, the Lord will drive out these nations before you because of their wickedness. <sup>5</sup>You are not going to take possession of their land because of your righteousness or your integrity. Instead, the Lord your God will drive out these nations before you because of their wickedness, in order to fulfill the promise he swore to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>6</sup>Understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

**THE UGLY**

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## 1. Harshness & Cruelty of God!

- a) The "Harem" was not a "ban" it was a "sacrifice" - God's Portion
- b) Righteousness and Justice of God on Display (Gen. 15 & Deut. 9)
- c) God was Doing Something New (Acts 5 - Ananias & Sapphires)

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  - g) Goodness of God Caring for His People (Joshua 8:2)

**THE UGLY**

# Arc of Redemption - Achan

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# Arc of Redemption - Achan

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5. Walking in Darkness vs. Falling Down

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