

Bible study for the week starting April 3, 2022

PRAY/SHARE

1. This study has focused on the life and leadership of Joshua and this week we witness one of his rare "less than valiant" moments. As always, we want to look in the mirror and invite the Holy Spirit to come with power and allow what we read to help us to know God more clearly and ourselves more honestly. Then, reviewing your message notes, discuss any special insights you experienced.

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

- 2. Read the whole piece, from the last verse of Chapter 6 through the 12th verse of chapter 7.
- 3. Now, looking back at the leadership era of Joshua so far, what did God have the Israelites do after the miraculous crossing of the Jordan river to affirm God's relationship with them? The Bible indicates that this was the first time they had done this since Mt. Sinai. The story of Achan, sadly, parallels the story of the golden calf, violating the covenant that God had made with the Hebrews as His people. Reflecting on these parallels, now discuss God's reaction to Achan's sin.
- 4. Study the report of the spies. Compare and contrast this report to the report in Joshua 2 and then to the report in Numbers 13. A hint ... where is the focus? How should this contrast direct our thinking?
- 5. The message spoke to the phrase that has now been used at least 4 times in Joshua "hearts melted". Rahab used it in chapter 2 and then again in 5:1 and now, here in 7:5, the roles are reversed. Since we do not have an exact defintion, what do you think is meant by this phrase? When has your "heart melted"? What does that same phrase usually mean in our modern language?
- 6. Review the role of the Ark of the covenant in this passage. Whenever I think of the Ark of the Covenant, I think of a message that I heard 30 years ago. "God has never lost a battle … but there are many to which He has chosen not to show up." Discuss this with what we have heard and read here in Joshua.
- 7. What parts of Joshua's reaction are appropriate and inappropriate? There are many different ways to react. If you're willing, share your "initial" reaction toward God when something goes very wrong in your world.

PRAY

Pray for one another. My most important personal takeaway came as I said:

"Again, this was not a pleasant reminder for me ... What do you do when you look at your calendar? I contemplate what I have to do but I do not at the same time bring each of those events or the associated decisions to my Father in heaven who is also my commander in chief. And especially when things are going well."



When No One Will Listen

Joshua 6:26-7:12 April 3, 2022 – Pastor D. R. Hilken

His Master's Voice

Sunday School "Best Of"
As for me and my house ~ Crossing the Jordan
the Walls of Jericho

Joshua 6:27-7:1a ~ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land. <u>BUT</u>

God's plan
Allow ME to Divide and Conquer

Pride easily leads to **PRAYERLESSNESS**

You are usually most <u>VULNERABLE</u>
Not when you're down and out
but when you're up and in

Both <u>FEAR</u> and <u>PRIDE</u> can keep you from listening "melted hearts" ~ Fear makes your enemy seem bigger Pride underestimates the enemy

And Pride is the #1 stumbling block to <u>FAITH</u>
Joshua 2:8-11, 5:1, John 8:43-45, Joshua 7:8-9

Own my hardships and seek God or blame God

God: Are you Listening? This is Stewardship 101 If you keep something that is to be consecrated to God it will become accursed to you.

Joshua 7:12
If you fall before the Lord in dependence, you won't fall to the ground in defeat.

<u>UNLESS</u> ...