

Discussion Guide

SERMON TITLE: Joshua: Avoiding Spiritual Defeat

DATE: September 23/24, 2023

RECAP:

This past week we had the opportunity to talk about a challenging portion of Scripture. God is merciful, yet He is also completely just. God's judgment can be difficult to understand and accept at times. Through our discussion on "Devoted to Destruction", we hope you came away with a deeper understanding of how God extends mercy even in the midst of His judgment. This week we are shifting our focus to the story of Achan, and how his disobedience affected more than just himself.

- List some of the greatest upsets of all-time. (Sports, baking competitions, chess matches, etc. Whatever you consider a great upset!)

DISCOVER:

Read Joshua 7:1-8:35

- How does this passage help us understand God's sovereignty?
- What role does God's guidance and intervention play in the events described in Joshua 7:1-8:35, and what does this reveal about the Israelites' relationship with God during this period?
- What significance does the consecration of the Israelites hold in demonstrating their commitment to God?
- How might the events that took place in our passage this week have shaped the Israelites view of God moving forward?

REFLECT:

- Do you tend to blame God before examining your own sin? Why or why not?
- Is there such a thing as personal or private sin? Explain why or why not.
- How can sin harm God's Church as a whole?
- How have the sins of others negatively affected you? How have your sins negatively affected others?

MEMORY VERSE:

Joshua 7:13

"Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.'"

NEXT STEPS:

- I am so thankful that our God is a God of repentance.
- I have found myself recently blaming God rather than seeking His will for my life.
- I realize that sin "mars and scars" the image of Christ in me and can have disastrous effects on others, and therefore, I will strive not to have a casual attitude toward sin in my life.
- With God's help, I want to be more like Rahab and less like Achan.