

On Mission: Empowered for Outreach

The Consequences of Hidden Sin: The Call to Faithfulness (Joshua 7)

***Introduction:** In Joshua 6, the fall of Jericho showcases God's incredible power and faithfulness to Israel. However, God's command to dedicate all the spoils of Jericho to Him sets the stage for a crucial lesson on obedience. In Joshua 7 and the story of Achan, whose hidden sin led to disastrous consequences for the entire community, this passage highlights how sin, whether hidden or visible, can damage our relationships with God and others, and underscores the importance of faithfulness and dedication to God.*

I. The Sin of Achan (Joshua 7:1-5)

- A. **Recap of Joshua 6:**
 - Spoils dedicated to God.
- B. **Achan's Disobedience:**
 - Achan took devoted things (Josh 7:1).
 - Israel's defeat at Ai (Joshua 7:2-5).

II. The Impact of Hidden Sin

- A. The sin of one man led to the defeat and demoralization of the entire nation (Joshua 7:5).
- B. God's anger was kindled against Israel, not just Achan, highlighting the collective responsibility (Joshua 7:1, 11-12).
- C. Sin disrupted Israel's relationship with God, causing them to lose His favor and protection.

III. The Revelation and Confession (Joshua 7:6-21)

- A. Joshua interceded for Israel, pleading with God, and God revealed that Israel had sinned and instructed Joshua to sanctify the people (Joshua 7:6-15).
- B. The process of uncovering Achan's sin involved narrowing down through the tribes and families until Achan was identified (Joshua 7:16-18).
- C. Achan confessed to taking a beautiful cloak, silver, and a bar of gold, admitting his wrongdoing (Joshua 7:19-21).

IV. The Consequences of Sin (Joshua 7:22-26)

- A. Achan and his family were stoned, and all his possessions were burned, symbolizing the seriousness of sin (Josh 7:24-25).
- B. The Valley of Achor was named as a place of trouble, serving as a perpetual reminder of the consequences of sin (Josh 7:26).
 - Jesus took on the consequence of sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21)

V. Application for Today

- A. Hidden sins, whether big or small, damage our relationships with God, family, friends, and the community.
 - For example, small lies or hidden behaviors can erode trust and integrity.
- B. The commitment at Mount Sinai, where Israel made a covenant with God, was renewed in Canaan, emphasizing the importance of dedication and faithfulness (Exodus 19:8, Joshua 24:25-27).
- C. The Church is called to remain faithful and dedicated to God.
- D. The New Testament encourages us to live in the light and confess our sins, highlighting the importance of transparency (1 John 1:5-10).

VII. Call to Action

- A. Spend time in prayer and self-examination.
- B. Foster a community where confession and accountability are encouraged.
- C. Be in prayer and mindful of sanctification to renew commitment to living a life dedicated to God's principles.

***Conclusion:** Achan's story in Joshua 7 serves as a powerful reminder of the seriousness of sin and its impact on the community. Hidden sins can damage relationships and disrupt our connection with God. This calls us to transparency and confession, renewing our commitment to living in obedience to God. Reflect on your own life, seek God's forgiveness for any hidden sins, and support one another in faithfulness.*

Reflection Questions:

1. How has hidden sin affected my relationships?
2. What steps can I take to ensure transparency and accountability in my walk with God?
3. How can I support others in their journey of faithfulness and dedication to God?