

From the Thrill of Victory to the Agony of Defeat

I. Announce:

A. **Slide1** Fellowship definition: *“The **common life** shared among disciples of Jesus in which we **reflect our relational God**, leading to a **deeper connection with God and with each other** through loving, caring, and worshiping together.”*

1. We decided to take **a year** and have all CM ministries focus *on that word, on that concept, on our definition.*

B. **Slide2** The Heb vrb חָרַם **cherem** always designates setting something or someone apart *permanently* as the property of God. *Sacred property.*

1. *And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres.* Neh.12:27

C. **Prayer:** Pray over the room. *This place and space.*

II. **Slide3a/b Intro:** From the Thrill of Victory to the Agony of Defeat

A. If you were alive way back in the 70's, ABC Wide World of Sports would show *Sports highlights* at the beginning of their broadcast, **and** the announcer would say, *“From the Thrill of Victory (then they'd show Vinko Bogataj's/Yugoslav Ski Flying wipe out) to the Agony of defeat.”*

B. **Slide3c** Did you ever watch the *crime drama TV series, Flashpoint?* Kelly and I loved it. They were a *Canadian Police, called Team 1, SRU Strategic Response Unit.* **But**, every episode started with an intense stand off **or** hostage situation. **Then** it would flash back to the beginning of the day, on how it got to that point.

1. **That's whats happening here.** Vs.1 starts with the problem, **and then** starting in vs.2 it goes back and tells the whole story from the beginning.

III. **Slide4 VIOLATING CHEREM (1-9) Read**

- A. (1) **Devoted things** - The Hebrew verb חָרַם *cherem* (6:18) always designates setting something or someone apart *permanently* as the property of God. *Sacred property*.
- B. **Slide5 (7-9) Joshua's prayer** - **A: what do you think?** (blaming God: *Why have You? What will I tell the enemies? How will you protect Your great name?*) Yet he didn't know.
- C. **Slide6 Joshua's campaign** (Jericho, AI, Bethel) - **Divide and conquer**.
1. He 1st took the **middle** country, **then** the **south** (10), **then north** (11).
Divide & conquer (no time for them to make alliances).
 2. Concept to City of AI.

IV. **Slide7 REPENTANCE & RENEWED CONSECRATION, THE ONLY REMEDY (10-15) Read**

- A. (10) **Get up!** - God interrupting prayer (might He interrupt you? *Can he?*)
- B. **Why did they lose?** - **Sin, not numbers of soldiers.** (had they brought 100,000 soldiers they would have still lost). [*sin, transgression, stolen, lied*]
- C. **Slide8 (12) Without God Nothing is Possible.** (With God nothing is impossible) But the opposite is also true.

V. **Slide9a CONFESSION OF COVETOUSNESS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD (16-21) Read**

- A. **Achan had taken the bacon.** Numb 32:23 *be sure your sin will find you out.*
1. **Slide9b** Dude, where are you going to wear a *Babylonian Coat*?
- B. **Saw, coveted, and took -**
1. Just like **David with Bathsheba.** (2 Sam.11:2-4) *saw - asked about - took her*
 2. **Eve** in Gen.36 *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.*
 3. He valued **the spoils** more than he valued **obedience to God.**
 - a) Ps.119:162 David says, *I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.*

C. **Saw** - our world understands **visual** stimulus. Mt.5:29 *If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.* Whats Jesus saying?

1. This is a call for **radical action** to prevent and eradicate **sin**.
 - a) He was speaking **hyperbole**, **and** *shouldn't* be taken **literally**.
 - b) He maintains that we should be cautious concerning the avoidance of sin, making every effort to remain **pure**.
2. **Origen** (185-254) an outstanding church father, was so convicted of his own sinfulness by reading these verses that he made himself **castrated**. (too which later he said ... **Opps!**)
 - a) Whats the problem of a literal **right eye removal**? You still have a **left** eye. And if you removed **that one too**? As a blind man from our church a long time ago shared with me ... *a blind man can still lust in his **heart**.*
3. **So then, whats Jesus saying?** (Dillydallying is Definitely Deadly)
4. Examine your life for **anything** that causes you to sin & take necessary action to **remove** it
 - a) **Nothing**, *no matter how precious it seems to us at the moment*, should be allowed to mar our **glorious destiny**.
5. Sin must not be **pampered**, it must be **put to death**.

D. **Coveted** - when it sinks down in your heart. 10th commandment. Guard your hearts because everything else flows from it.

E. **Slide9c** Ps 32:1 NLT *Oh, what **joy** for those whose **disobedience** is **forgiven**, whose **sin** is **put out of sight!** 2 Yes, what **joy** for those whose **record** the Lord has **cleared of guilt**, whose **lives** are lived in **complete honesty!***

VI. **Slide10 THE HARSH REALITY OF JUDGMENT STANDS AS A SOBER MEMORIAL TO THE HOLINESS OF GOD (22-26) Read**

A. **So Many Lessons:**

1. **Surprising defeats** can often be traced back to **secret sins**. From Swindoll

2. **Very private sins** can lead to **very public consequences**.
3. **Temptation's lies** can blind us to **reality** & deafen us to **consequences**.
4. **Sweeping acts of disobedience** call for **severe responses of discipline**. [but by **grace**, we are not all treated like *Ananias & Saphira*]

B. **Slide11 Here**, the *Valley of Achor* (valley of *trouble*) *is where Israel was 1st unfaithful to the Lord in the Promise Land* :(

1. To this day the name of that place is called **Valley of Achor - Until** Hosea 2:15 *And there I will give her* (Gomer/harlot/Is.) *vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a Door of Hope*.
 - a) *A door of hope*, a **Valley of Hope**, *better things to come*, *repossessing the Promise Land*.
2. **And it can for you**. Name **your** valley of **trouble** **you** find **yourself** in.
 - a) Only **God** can give new meaning to old names, **and** wipe out painful associations w/old places.
 - b) **Don't** think you're too rotten, too ugly. *God knows His wife is a harlot*.
(1) *God is wooing a wife of harlotry*. [this is the **OT gospel**]

C. **Slide12 Let's Remember**: 1 Cor 10:11-13 *These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. 12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. 13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

- D. **Christian living** is a place of *blessing, rest, peace, forgiveness, and hope*. **But** it's also a place of *campaign, conflict, and conquest*.
1. **Christian living** is a place of **blessings**, **Yes**, **but** it's also a place of **battles**.

2. **A battle is** a single engagement. **A campaign is** a series of battles in a war *that must be won*. (also, that's in the christian life)

E. Israel's **success** depended on, *their own state of being* **conquered** by God.

1. **Achan's rebellion** showed that in that respect, they were not conquered by Him and therefore open to defeat.

F. **Obedience to God's commands** is essential for success. **Disobedience** can lead to defeat and consequences not just for us but also for those around us.

G. Keywords: sin, judgment, hope.