

Joshua Part 4 HANDOUT

4.7.24

Ai is the next city - smaller city than Jericho, not as fortified.

JOSHUA 7:2-3 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.”

- The Israelites were confident after what just happened at Jericho.

JOSHUA 7:4-5 So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, ⁵ who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.

- Israelites did not see that coming - What happened?

JOSHUA 7:6-7 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, “Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!

- What happened at Ai is the result of what happened at the end of the battle of Jericho.

JOSHUA 7:1 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD’s anger burned against Israel.

KEY: Sin still resided in the hearts of the people...and in the same way, sin is still a temptation for you and me today.

JOSHUA 7:11-13 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. ¹² That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

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.**”

- As each tribe, each clan, each family came forward...it all pointed to Achan

JOSHUA 7:20-21 ²⁰ Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: ²¹ When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

- God knows our sin
- There is a ripple effect of our sin

KEY: Ultimately our sin is saying to God, “You’re not enough.”

- Achan turned his back on the faithfulness of God

KEY: If you fall before the Lord in surrender, you won’t have to fall before the Lord in defeat.

What does God want for us?

- Be set apart...Take seriously who God is...God is holy.
- Confess sin, own it, walk in a brand new way.
- Don’t be afraid about what other people think about you if they know what is buried in your tent.

LIFE POINT: Deal with your sin so that you can move into what God has for you in your life.