

HIDDEN THINGS

How many of you have ever hidden or kept something from someone?

When we hide something, is it really hidden or just temporarily out of sight or concealed?

When it comes to sin, no matter the level you think it is, it's absolutely never hidden and will eventually be disclosed

Numbers 32:23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.

Luke 12:2,3 NKJV For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

Hidden things

Joshua 7:1-12, 19-26 NKJV But the children of Israel ^[a]committed a trespass regarding the accursed ^[b] things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of ^[c]Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.

² Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which *is* beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for *the people of Ai are few.*" ⁴ So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. ⁵ And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them *from* before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the ^[d] hearts of the people melted and became like water.

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord ^[e]God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy

us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! ⁸ O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its ^[f]back before its enemies? ⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear *it*, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”

The Sin of Achan

¹⁰ So the Lord said to Joshua: “Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the ^[g]accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put *it* among their own stuff. ¹² Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, *but* turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

¹⁹ Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide *it* from me.”

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua and said, “Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: ²¹ When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I ^[i]coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. ²³ And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the Lord. ²⁴ Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, “Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.” So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

26 Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of [k]Achor to this day.

How many have ever said or heard someone say my choices, habits, addictions, lifestyle, disobedience, and sin doesn't affect anyone but me?

After all, I am not hurting anyone. If no one sees or knows because I've kept it hidden, no harm no foul, right?

How many ever played hide and seek?

We teach our kids from a young age how to play hide and seek and the winner is chosen by who can hide the best

Unfortunately many carry that over into adulthood and it becomes a lifestyle where we would rather try to bury the truth instead of reveal it and families pay the price for your hidden things

Several weeks ago I asked the Lord how come so many families now seem to be generationally broken, addicted, hopeless, and stuck in a cycle of defeat? He said it's the sin of Achan

Why did Achan take the accursed things?

v. 20-21

He coveted, desired and craved the accursed things that God told them to not touch more than to obey His command

Joshua 6:18 And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

When we begin to crave the things of this world that only feeds our flesh, we will soon follow that up by hiding the things we are partaking in because we know it's displeasing to God but pleasing our flesh!

Achan knew he had sinned that's why he hid it. But friend, the hidden things in our lives only bring destruction

Generational curses begin with an Achan sin because someone refused to deal with the lust of the flesh

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Read commentary from Bible

I asked the Lord how this whole process of hiding things begins – this is what He said...Normalize, compromise, authorize

1. WE NORMALIZE SIN

Achan already knew this was a sin he was committing, but he thought who's it going to hurt and who could possibly miss these items among a sea of spoils from Jericho

We might be the generation who seeks to normalize sin greater than any other generation. Why?

Because the standard of Christianity has been reduced to thinking we can live for Jesus and the world

Luke 16:13 NKJV “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

This calls for total loyalty to God and His Word to be unwilling to forsake any ambition that compromises your commitment to Christ. Achan normalized his behavior in front of his whole family. Will you?

2 Cor 6:14-18 NKJV Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what ^[a]fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what ^[b]communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you^[c] are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

**“I will dwell in them
And walk among *them*.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”**

¹⁷ Therefore

**“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”**

**¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.”**

2. WE COMPROMISE TO SIN

Joshua 7:21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I ^[a]coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”

Achan had already normalized this sin to the point where there was no fear of God for his actions so he now steps into compromise!

Achan not only compromised his and his family’s lives, but also Israel and his son cost 36 men their lives

Church, hidden sin in our lives is like a plague, if not dealt with, will hinder His blessings and eventually judgement will come

Compromise is the place where death is conceived!

James 1:14-16 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

No matter how you try to hide sin, it only has one destination! When inner desires respond to outward enticement, sin is spawned

3. WE AUTHORIZE IT'S EFFECTS

Hidden sin leads to trouble on the horizon

Joshua 7:24-26 Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

²⁶ Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of ^[b]Achor to this day.

The word achor here means trouble, in other words, Achan's sin led both him and his entire family to the valley of trouble!

Almost every generational curse or life controlling stronghold has been made available and fed by an enabler

Another word for enabler is to authorize something

Achan's hidden sin authorized a death sentence over his family and everything he owned

What we normalize we authorize!

Why was his family destroyed? Because they had common knowledge of the sin and shared in the corporate guilt

Did you ever think about the hidden things in your life you're unwilling to address, repent and remove, you are actually authorizing those things the power to destroy those around you

The hidden sin you hide, embrace, and entertain will become the chains that bind your future generations

Gal 6:7-8 NKJV Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Achan waited too long to remove the hidden things, will you?

Your family's future will either be cursed or blessed by your decision

Deut 5:9-10 you shall not bow^[c] down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, *am* a jealous God, ^[d]visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ¹⁰ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and ^[e]keep My commandments.