

Joshua 7

Joshua 7.1

V1 – Read Numbers 32.23 – Our sins will always find us out

-Here is proof of that principle

-**What was the "ban"?** *Joshua 6.17-19* – all was to be destroyed (the exception: silver, gold, bronze were to go to the Lord's treasury)

-**Reason for this ban?** *Joshua 6.18* – so that the people would not covet things

-**Who violated this ban?** A man named Achan

-**Reaction of God?** Mad at all Israelites

-What one person does affects the whole congregation (even today)

– **Read Romans 14.7, 1 Cor. 5.4-7, 1 Cor. 12.26**

-Examples: David's unscriptural census cost 70,000 lives

-Jonah's rebellion against God almost cost the lives of all the sailors on the boat

-*1 Cor. 5* – the man living in adultery – **Why did he have to be disfellowshipped?** Paul: His influence will spread like leaven in bread

-In church discipline, the question to consider: *If everybody did this, what would the congregation be like?*

Joshua 7.2-5

V2 – Next city to conquer? Ai (Note: Only city in the Bible that is spelled exactly as it sounds – great for a spelling test)

-**Command of Joshua?** For spies to go to Ai

-A very strategic city; next city after Jericho

V3 – The report of the spies? Not many people in Ai – only send 2000-3000

V4 – How many did Joshua send? 3000 (a better margin of strength)

-**Result?** The Israelites were badly defeated

V5 – How many Israelites were killed? 36

-**Result for the people?** Terrified; their hearts melted

-Lesson: Adequate men, minus God's help = defeat

-From *Joshua 6*: inadequate men, plus God's help = victory

The people knew that God's help had been withdrawn

Joshua 7.6-9

V6 – Reaction of Joshua? Tore clothes, fell to the earth before the Ark of the Covenant

-They put dust on their heads

-**Who joined Joshua?** The elders of Israel

-**Were their elders in the Old Testament?** Yes (a surprise to many people...)

-See: *Ex. 4.29, 12.21, Num. 11.25, Acts 11.30* (first mention in New Testament church), *and Acts 14.23*

-Paul appointed elders on his missionary journeys

-In what other location do we read about elders? 24 elders in heaven - *Rev. 4.4*

-Why 24? 12 to represent the elders of the Old Testament/12 to represent the elders under the New Testament

V7 – Who did they blame? They seem to have blamed God

-Our same reaction today? Someone gets hurt, dies – "Why did God do this to me?"
"Why did God let this happen?"

V8 – Whom does Joshua seem to blame next? The people – they had betrayed Joshua

V9 – Joshua's main concern? That God's reputation would be harmed in the region

-We need to have that same concern today – that the name of the church should not be shamed

Joshua 7.10-15

V10 – Reaction of God? He didn't need any help in defending his name

V11 – Where did God put the blame? The people have sinned and violated the ban

-3 specific sins? Stolen, deceived, put items among their own things

V12 – Result? God would no longer be with the people, until the situation was corrected

V13 – The people were to "consecrate" themselves for the next day

V14 – How would the Lord identify the guilty person? Tribe, family, household...by lot

-How was Jonah identified as the reason for the storm and possible sinking of the ship? Lots

-Lots were used up until miracles ceased – Read Proverbs 16.33

-When is the last time we read of lots being used to determine the decision of God in the lives of humans? To choose a replacement for Judas – **Read Acts 1.21-26**

-Why don't we need lots today to determine the will of God? We have the complete Bible, and spiritual gifts have ceased

V15 – Punishment for the guilty party? To be burned with fire

-Was the God of the Old Testament more "vicious" than the God of the New Testament?

Answer: Think about what the New Testament says about hell – **Read Heb. 10.26-31**

Joshua 7.16-21

V16 – Which tribe did the lot identify? Judah

V17 – Which family was identified? Zerahites

-Which man in this family was identified? Zabdi

V18 – Who in this family was identified? Achan, the grandson of Zabdi

V19 – Message of Joshua? Confess your sin

V 20 – Achan confessed his sin

V 21 – **3 steps to his fall?** Saw, coveted, took

-Remember Eve: She saw the fruit, wanted it, and took it

-**Where had Achan hidden these things?** Under the floor of his tent

Joshua 7.22-26

V 22 – The thrill of sin was very short-lived

-**What did Joshua do?** Sent men to the tent; they found the mantle, gold, silver

V 23 – **The next act?** They dumped all of the things out before all the people

-Remember *Numbers 32.23* – **Read Luke 8.17**

V 24 – He and his possessions were taken to the valley of Achor

V 25-26 – **The punishment?** Stoned and burned with fire

-It appears that his sons and daughters were also killed – **Why?** They must have known about the sin

-How could you live in a tent and not know what is going on?

-Interesting that Achan never showed repentance; never asked for mercy from God

-In the Day of Judgment, many people will still be unrepentant; they will argue with God, just as they argue with us today

-Remember how the rich man argued with Abraham over sending Lazarus or someone else back to warn his brothers

V 26 – **Memorial?** A huge pile of stones to remind people of that event

-**What were they to remember about this event when they saw this pile of stones?** That God wants his people to obey him

-**Why a pile of stones, instead of a statue of the event?** Because of #2/10 Commandments

-**Read Exodus 20.4-6**

Lessons:

1. Nothing is done in secret – God always knows
2. Sin will have its effect
3. Others will be affected

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