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Sin and Consequences

Joshua 7

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

SO JOSHUA SAID TO ACHAN, "MY SON, GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, AND MAKE A CONFESSION TO HIM. I URGE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE DONE; DO NOT HIDE IT FROM ME."

- JOSHUA 7:19



This week we are studying Joshua 7. Israel has just conquered Jericho and is feeling confident. They only send a small part of the army to take Ai because it is a small community, however, they suffer a humiliating defeat. One of the men has taken articles from Jericho that were forbidden from being kept. After God reveals the offender, they stone his whole household. This reveals the seriousness of sin and need to following God's instruction. Join us this week as we talk about sin and its consequences and how we must deal with sin.



Israel Is Defeated at Ai

7 But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully regarding the things designated for destruction, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the designated things; therefore the anger of the LORD burned against the sons of Israel.

² Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ Then they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not have all the people go up; have *only* about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai; do not trouble all the people there, for they are few." ⁴ So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. ⁵ And the men of Ai struck and killed about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them on the mountainside; and the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the ground on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, *both* he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, "Oh, Lord GOD! Why did You ever bring this people across the Jordan, *only* to hand us over to the Amorites, to eliminate us? If only we had been willing to live beyond the Jordan! ⁸ O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned *their* back before their enemies? ⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear about it, and they will surround us and eliminate our name from the earth. And what will You do for Your great name?"

¹⁰ So the LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned, and they have also violated My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things designated for destruction, and have both stolen and kept *it a* secret. Furthermore, they have also put *them* among their own things. ¹² Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand against their enemies; they turn *their* backs before their enemies, because they have become designated for destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you eliminate from your midst the things designated for destruction. ¹³ Stand up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, because the LORD, the God of Israel, has said this: "There are things designated for destruction in your midst, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you have removed the designated things from your midst." ¹⁴ So in the morning you shall come forward by your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD selects by lot shall come forward by families, and the family which the LORD selects shall come forward by households, and the household which the LORD selects shall come forward man by man. ¹⁵ And it shall be that the one who is selected with the things designated for destruction shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has violated the covenant of the LORD, and because he has committed a disgraceful thing in Israel.'"

The Sin of Achan

¹⁶ So Joshua got up early in the morning and brought Israel forward by tribes, and the tribe of Judah was selected. ¹⁷ So he brought the family of Judah forward, and he selected the family of the Zerahites; then he brought the family of the Zerahites forward man by man, and Zabdi was selected. ¹⁸ And he brought his household forward man by man; and Achan, son of Carmi, son of

Zabdi, son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, was selected. ¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I implore you, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give praise to Him; and tell me now what you have done. Do not hide it from me." ²⁰ So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹ when I saw among the spoils a beautiful robe from Shinar, two hundred shekels of silver, and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I wanted them and took them; and behold, they are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath it. ²³ So they took them from inside the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the sons of Israel; and they laid them out before the LORD. ²⁴ Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you brought disaster on us? The LORD will bring disaster on you this day." And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. ²⁶ Then they erected over him a large heap of stones *that stands* to this day, and the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

● **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

2 Explore His Word (Interpretation) (For Community group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. Why didn't the whole army go to Ai?
2. Why did Joshua tear his clothes?
3. What was Joshua's main fear after the loss at Ai?
4. Why did they lose the battle at Ai?
5. Why do you think the articles were appealing to Achan?

6. Why would God have them kill the whole household?

7. Was Israel forgiven?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

8. Today, when people sin, does God punish in this way? Point to Scripture to support your answer.

9. We don't stone people today. How should we treat members of the church that sin against God?

10. What is the main point of this passage and how does it apply to you today?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes