

Joshua 7

v1

“and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.”

- The Lord was angry with them and they didn't know it. They had lost The Lord's blessing/communion and didn't realise it.
- Joshua and the others were acting in victory, obedience and faith. They planned to attack Ai in great faith and confidence in God.
- Should Joshua have prayed/communed with The Lord to confirm His blessing/pleasure? Could Joshua have known about this before Ai?

v3

“Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai;”

- The battle was to be a minor inconvenience. It was to be a skirmish. A short days work for a few keen men.
- This was no challenge. There was no fear or concern. It was an easy, expected win.

v4-5

“So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.”

“And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men”

“wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.”

- 36 lives lost. Families broken. Fathers, sons and brothers taken.
- Lives that went to fight in faith and obedience. Lives that had kept themselves and were innocent.
- The hearts of the people were affected. The Lord is always dealing with and working in the hearts of man.

v6-9

“And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD... and put dust upon their heads.”

“O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turns their backs before their enemies!”

“and what will you do unto your great name?”

- May it be that my heart responds as Joshua's. That when I see The Lord's people in defeat that it breaks my heart and drives me to cry out to The Lord.
- May I have such a revelation of God's love for His people and such compassion that my heart breaks for them.
- May I also have such a desire for God that I am concerned for His name and His testimony. May I have such a carefulness to praise and glorify The Lord's name in my life and see His name glorified amongst His people.
- May we learn to have hearts that pray like this today. Lord, what about your name?! Lord your name is being mocked, taken in vain, dragged through the dirt by people who claim your life... Oh Lord, raise up your testimony, your standard, your people.

v10

“The Lord said to Joshua, Get up! Why do you lie thus upon your face?”

- This response from the Lord is similar to when Moses stood before the Red Sea. The Lord is not rebuking Joshua for praying but He is making it very clear in His anger that action must be taken. The responsibility was not The Lord's!
- Get up and deal with this sin in the camp!
- Don't lie there and bemoan the loss of victory; Don't cry to me about your weakness; Don't sit still and wallow in self-pity and dejection... GET UP AND DEAL WITH IT!!
- So often we get downcast and look upon our sin, guilt and failure. We focus on ourselves. We magnify the distractions and problems. We can't see The Lord of all the earth because of How big we've made our sin and weakness.
- Get up and deal with the sin in the camp. Deal with the sin in your life. Cast it out! Destroy it! Take action to rid yourself of the accursed thing and protect the precious testimony of The Lord Jesus Christ!!

v11-13

“for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.”

- The things of Jericho were a curse to the children of Israel. There was a blessing in obedience and a curse for disobedience.
- They had taken of Jericho and brought it into the camp. Jericho was in their home. Jericho was in their heart.
- The enemy could not touch the children of Israel. The enemy had no might or power against them as they were obedient... but when they allowed the world into their home they suffered great loss and suffering. The same is true today.

“neither will I be with you any more, except you destroy the accursed from among you.”

- The Lord would not go with them. They would not have the presence and communion with The Lord until the sin was dealt with.
- They had not recognised that The Lord was not with them. They didn't recognise that they had lost the blessing and presence of The Lord.
- 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 *Be you not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? for you are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

“you cannot not stand before your enemies, until you take away the accursed thing from among you.”

- There would be no blessing whilst sin was allowed in the camp. There would be no victory. There would be no peace, joy, hope...
- There would be the curse of disobedience. Not just the lack of God's blessing but the judgement of His love.
- Ai should have been an easy victory in any worldly setting but The Lord, in His great mercy and tender compassion would root out the wickedness in the camp and cause His people to walk uprightly and reverently before Him.

v21

"When I saw among the spoils"

- *Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise*
- Be careful little eyes what you see. May we, like the Psalmist, be so careful. *Psalm 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before my eyes.*
- *Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding.* – It is when we start to lean on our own logic and understanding that we come into confusion and ruin. Better to lean wholly on obedience and trust to The Lord whether we understand or not.

v15 & 24-25

"And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he has:"

"Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold... and all that he had"

"all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones."

- The consequences of sin are severe and so much more than we would ever anticipate. If only Achan could have kept His eyes on The Lord, if only he could have envisioned the cost to his children and his household. If only he could have seen the 36 men killed in battle. If he could have seen the cost... But his eyes were on his own lustful desire.
- The cost and consequence for sin have not changed. God has not changed. The Lord does not now wink at sin.
- *James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.*
- But that death is not just to us, it is to all we influence. Our family, friends and relations. Our business and dealings... So many people died and paid the cost for Achan's sin! So many people were left grieving his actions.
- *Galatians 6:8 For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*
- *Numbers 32:23 "and be sure your sin will find you out."*
- Oh we should give much thought and much consideration to these examples! Oh how we should fear The Lord and fear the cost and consequence of sin! May we take every action and effort to rid sin out of our lives!!