



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
January/February, 2018

The Basics Of Sin

Up until **Joshua 7**, Israel had gone from one success to another. They experienced God's faithfulness and His miraculous power from the crossing of the Jordan to the conquest of Jericho. They had seen the mighty hand of God work on their behalf, especially at Jericho.

Now Ai is the next city to be dealt with if they are to continue to press further into the land. Unfortunately, Joshua and Israel suffer a crushing defeat, "So about 3,000 men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water" (**Joshua 7:4**).

Why did Israel experience such a surprising defeat? Ai certainly could not compare in any way to Jericho. The spies revealed that they had "few" people; they would be no match for the superior force of Israel (**Joshua 7:3**). Why then did the people of Ai put the Israelites on the run?

The defeat at Ai boils down to one simple word – sin. Sin infected the people of

Israel and it led to their defeat. In this issue of *Biblical Manhood*, we will focus on the basics of sin from this text. We will examine some basic facts about sin and its effects in our lives.

No one sins in isolation.

This chapter shows that we do not sin in isolation. Our sin does affect others. It's interesting that the text says that Israel "broke faith in regard to the devoted things." Everything in Jericho belonged exclusively to God. It was to be destroyed by sword and fire (**6:21, 24**) or put in the treasury of the Lord's house (**6:19, 24**). They were warned not to steal (**6:18**).

Unfortunately, Achan blatantly disregarded this warning, "for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things" (**7:1**). Achan sinned; he disobeyed God. Yet, it's crucial to notice what God says, "the people of Israel broke faith."

This points to the fact that we do not sin in isolation. Our sin affects others. Israel was God's covenant people. They stood in

relationship to Him. When one person disobeyed, it affected all the people.

The same is true for believers today. We are God's people. We are joined together in the body of Christ. What we do does affect the rest of the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:15-20**). This text is a powerful warning to be diligent to deal with our sin. Our sin can and does affect others. We cannot allow ourselves to believe that we can sin in isolation. This is a warning to flee from sin not just for ourselves but also for those around us, especially our brothers and sister in Christ.

Sin hinders our spiritual growth.

God had assured the Israelites of victory in Canaan. He promised to give them every place that the soles of their feet hit the ground (**Joshua 1:3**). By faith, they could march through Canaan and take it for their own. God had promised this; by faith, they could make progress and enter into all that God had for them.

Yet, they experienced a major setback. Sin had hindered their progress – their entering into all that God had for them. After experiencing God's provision, God's faithfulness, and God's mighty power, they suffer defeat. That's exactly what sin does. It hinders the progress of God's people. It robs His people of blessing.

The same is true today in the life of a believer. God longs to have a vital, intimate relationship with His children. God has countless blessings for the child of God. God

desires that we grow in our faith and become a powerful vessel in His hands.

However, sin hinders all this. Sin puts distance between God and us. When we choose sin, we choose to move away from Him. Sin interferes with receiving blessings from God. We cannot have the blessings of God while we enjoying the sin of the world. Sin impedes our spiritual growth. If you're spending your time enjoying sin, you don't have time to spend time in the Word and prayer, which are crucial to our spiritual growth.

It's important to remind ourselves that sin is not worth it. The temporary pleasure of sin is not worth sacrificing your spiritual growth. No sin is worth putting a barrier between God and you. No earthly pleasure is valuable enough to keep you from growing spiritually. Why exchange the blessing of God for the fleeting pleasure and enjoyment of this world?

Sin angers God.

Joshua 7:1 is explicit, "And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel." God wants us to know that He is opposed to sin. He is angered by it. This is especially true in the lives of His people.

It was true then. God's holiness stirred His anger against Israel for their rebellion. Achan willfully chose to disobey God. He defied the commands of God. Divine anger was the only right response of a holy God.

This is true now. It's important to understand that the child of God will never

face the wrath of God. Through our faith in Christ, the believer has been delivered from the eternal, burning wrath of God. Jesus bore our sin and accepted that wrath in our place.

However, God is our Father. He is our “holy” Father. When believers choose to rebel against Him, it stirs His anger toward us. His holy character can do nothing else. At the same time, it angers Him because He knows what sin will do to us.

That fact that sin angers God ought to shock us. It should awaken in us a holy fear of Him. It must arouse a holy dread of anything that is displeasing to Him.

God uses trials and setbacks to reveal our sin to us.

After this defeat, Joshua and the elders tear their clothes and fall to the ground before the Lord (**Joshua 7:6**). This was an ancient sign of mourning. These actions showed their anguish and brokenness over this stunning defeat. Joshua also calls on the Lord; he asks why the Lord allowed this defeat.

The Lord makes a surprising response, “Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? Israel has sinned” (**Joshua 7:10-11**). God told Joshua, “It’s not what I’ve done; it’s what Israel has done.” God would not allow Joshua to blame Him for the defeat at Ai. It rested squarely of Achan and Israel.

God used the adversity of this defeat to reveal sin to His people. Joshua didn’t have the vantage point that we have. He

didn’t know that Achan had taken some of the devoted things. This setback exposed the sin of Israel.

God does expose our sin through adversity. Sometimes believers face defeat because of sin. I want to emphasize that God has a variety of reasons for the adversity that comes into our lives. He uses adversity in a variety of ways in our lives: to strengthen our faith, to prepare us for greater blessing, to teach us humility, to draw us closer to Him, to enable us to learn to depend more fully on Him.

I’m not saying that when adversity comes into our lives it’s because of sin. However, what I am saying is that we have to be open to that possibility. In **Joshua 7**, God had not been unfaithful; Israel had sinned. Unfortunately, Joshua wanted to blame God.

How often do we do this? When we have setbacks, when adversity comes into our lives, we immediately ask God why He’s allowing this. Our first response, like Joshua, is to blame God. This text is calling us to examine our lives when there is adversity. When we have setback, the child of God is to take a long hard look at his own life.

Sometimes God does use adversity to expose our sin. When this happens in your life, pray for the Holy Spirit to give you guidance. Be open to His conviction in this matter. Be willing to accept His correction if He is using this to expose sin.

World Prayer Plan

March

- 1-Colombia-The Lost
- 2-Comoros Islands
- 3-Congo
- 4-Cook Islands
- 5-Costa Rica
- 6-Cote d'Ivoire
- 7-Cuba-The Church
- 8-Cuba-The Lost
- 9-Cuba-Collapse of Communism
- 10-Cyprus
- 11-Czech Republic
- 12-Slovakia
- 13-Denmark
- 14-Djibouti
- 15-Dominica
- 16-Dominican Republic
- 17-Ecuador
- 18-Egypt-The Church
- 19-Egypt-The Lost
- 20-Egypt-Persecuted Believers
- 21-El Salvador
- 22-Equatorial Guinea
- 23-Eritrea
- 24-Estonia
- 25-Ethiopia-The Church
- 26-Ethiopia-The Lost
- 27-Ethiopia-Persecuted Believers
- 28-Faeroe Islands
- 29-Falkland Islands
- 30-Croatia-The Church
- 31-Croatia-The Lost

April

- 1-Fiji
- 2-France-The Church
- 3-France-The Lost

- 4-France-Hardness To The Gospel
- 5-France-Missionaries
- 6-French Guiana
- 7-French Polynesia
- 8-Gabon
- 9-Gambia
- 10-Gaza Strip
- 11-Georgia
- 12-Germany-The Church
- 13-Germany-The Lost
- 14-Germany-Spiritual Warfare
- 15-Ghana
- 16-Gibraltar
- 17-Greece
- 18-Greenland
- 19-Grenada
- 20-Guadeloupe
- 21-Guam
- 22-Guatemala
- 23-Guinea
- 24-Guinea-Bissau
- 25-Guyana
- 26-Haiti
- 27-Holy See (Vatican)
- 28-Honduras
- 29-Hong Kong
- 30-Hungary-The Church

Dr. Kevin Meador, President
The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
 P. O. Box 278, Hickory, MS 39332
 (601) 635-2180 (601) 646-5960

EMAIL:
prayer@prayerclosetministries.org

WEB PAGES:
www.prayerclosetministries.org
www.kingdompraying.com