



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
September/October, 2018

Facing Our Sin

In **Joshua 7**, God's people suffered an unlikely 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. God could not bless and give victory to a people who willingly tolerated sin. In the closing verses of this chapter, God instructs Joshua how to deal with sin. He shows him to remove the sin that is hindering them from experiencing blessing.

In these verses, we see how that we are to deal with sin. If we desire to have God's blessing and victory, we have to

confront sin in our lives and in our churches. The Word of God gives us the following practical steps for dealing with sin:

*Don't delay in dealing with sin
(Joshua 7:13-18)*

God's instructions to Joshua show that urgent action is needed, "Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you" (7:13). Joshua had to take immediate action. There could be no victory where sin is tolerated.

God gives a definite plan for exposing the guilty party (7:14-15). Joshua shows his characteristic prompt obedience (7:16). Tribe by tribe comes before Joshua until Judah is chosen by the lot. Then the clan of Zabdi is singled out. Joshua finally narrows it down to one man – Achan (17-18).

From these verses, we can see that there can be no delay in dealing with sin. God calls Joshua to immediate action. There can be no procrastination when it

comes to evil. Sin is displeasing and rebellion to God. We cannot tolerate it nor delay in confronting it. The Word of God calls us to get up, confront, expose our sin before God, and ask for His mercy.

Give glory to God by confessing sin
(7:19-20)

When Achan is exposed, Joshua exhorts him to give glory to God, "Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me" (7:19). Achan immediately responds (7:20). He comes clean and admits his guilt.

It's interesting how Joshua asks Him to give glory to God. He could give glory to God by confessing his sin. We normally think of giving glory to God by praise or thanksgiving. Yet, the Word of God declares that we can glorify God through confessing our sin.

How can confessing sin glorify God? First, it exalts the holiness of God. It is a way of saying that God is pure and that we are impure. This reveals that God is wholly other than us; we are sinful and in need of His mercy.

Next, it highlights God's righteousness. By confessing our sin, we are saying that God is right and that we are wrong. We are saying that God is right in His character, His ways, and His commands. When we confess sin, we are honoring His rightness in all things.

By confessing sin, we also glorify God's justice. When we admit to our sin, we are admitting God is right to chastise us. We are proclaiming that God can and should act against our disobedience. We have sinned; it is only right that a just God should answer that sin.

Realize that sin is dissatisfaction with God (7:21-23)

In Joshua 7:21-23, Achan explains why he sinned against God. He is straightforward and matter of fact. He also accepts full responsibility for what he did. Notice how he puts it, "I saw . . . I coveted . . . I took" (7:21). Sin always works this way. This is the same pattern from man's fall and disobedience in the Garden of Eden – saw, desired, and took (**Genesis 3:6-8**).

At the heart of his confession is covetousness. He took the forbidden items because of he coveted them. He broke the eighth commandment (stealing) because he had already broken the tenth commandment (covetousness).

This gives us insight into the nature of sin. Sin is dissatisfaction with God. It is saying that what God has blessed with is not enough or doesn't measure up. We have to have more than what God graciously commands and offers to us.

For Achan, a Babylonian robe, silver, and gold mattered more to him than the Word of God and the glory of God. He would rather have these things than obey God's Word and bring glory to God. He

loved idols of beauty and money more than God. This same temptation faces us each day. Will we be content with what God provides? Alternatively, will we reach out for more and sin against God?

It's easy to point a self-righteous finger at Achan. Yet, what would God find buried deep in our hearts (7:22-23)? What God-substitutes are you bowing down to and worshipping in your heart? At its root, sin is dissatisfaction with God – who He is and what He provides.

How we need to plead with a greater love for God! How we need to plead with a quiet contentment with God and His gracious blessings in our lives. This should be our continual prayer as we live in a world where God-substitutes clamor for our hearts.

Be ruthless in dealing with sin
(7:24-26)

The sin has been exposed, confessed, and confirmed. Now Joshua acts to deal with the sin. In obedience to God, the items devoted to destruction are destroyed (7:24). And so are Achan and his family, "And Joshua said, 'Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today.' And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor (Joshua 7:25-26).

These verses seem overly harsh. It is horrifying to us in a purely human sense. However, this shows us how evil sin is and how it has to be rooted out and dealt with ruthlessly. Sin cannot be excused, toyed, or compromised with. It has to be confronted and rooted out. We must do this if we want to honor our God who is holy and pure. We must do this if we are serious about receiving His blessing and victory. We dare not downplay God's holiness.

All this took place in the Valley of Achor. The Valley of Achor should lead us to Calvary. We should all be under a pile of rocks! Even more terrifying, we should face the eternal wrath of God in hell. The answer to our sin is the Cross – the Savior Jesus who died and rose again. We deserve death and hell, but, by faith in Him, we can be forgiven and accepted by God.

At the same time, we must seriously confront and root out our sin. We need to continue seeking His grace and power to do these things. We are to fight the good fight of faith against sin and worldliness. There can be no excusing, toying, or compromising with sin. By His death and resurrection, Jesus has paid for our sins. God has buried our sin in the depths of the sea. Now, by His grace and power, let us be done with them, get rid of them and not bury them in the tents of our hearts.

World Prayer Plan

November

- 1-Turks and Caicos Islands
- 2-Tuvalu
- 3-Uganda-The Church
- 4-Uganda-The Lost
- 5-Ukraine-The Church
- 6-United Arab Emirates
- 7-United Kingdom-The Church
- 8-United Kingdom-The Lost
- 9-United Kingdom-Spiritual Awakening
- 10-England
- 11-Northern Ireland
- 12-Scotland
- 13-Wales
- 14-United States-The Church
- 15-United States-The Lost
- 16-United States-Spiritual Awakening
- 17-United States-Missionary Fervor
- 18-United States-Government
- 19-United States-Spiritual Unity
- 20-Uruguay
- 21-Uzbekistan
- 22-Vanuatu
- 23-Venezuela-The Church
- 24-Venezuela-The Lost
- 25-Vietnam-The Church
- 26-Vietnam-The Lost
- 27-Vietnam-Open Doors
- 28-Virgin Islands
- 29-Revival In Caribbean
- 30-Wallis and Futura Island

December

- 1-Yemen-The Church
- 2-Yemen-The Lost
- 3-Yugoslavia
- 4-Bosnia
- 5-Hercegovina
- 6-Montenegro
- 7-Serbia

- 8-Macedonia
- 9-Zaire-The Church
- 10-Zaire-The Lost
- 11-Zambia
- 12-Zimbabwe
- 13-Africa
- 14-Asia
- 15-Caribbean
- 16-Eurasia
- 17-Europe
- 18-Latin America
- 19-Middle East
- 20-North America
- 21-Pacific
- 22-The Fall of Islam
- 23-The Fall of Hinduism
- 24-Bible Translation and Distribution Across the World
- 25-That The Glory and Power of Jesus Would Be Seen Across The World
- 26-More Missionaries
- 27-Believers With A Heart For The World
- 28-Increase In Giving To Mission Efforts
- 29-Destruction of Satan's Grip Over the Nations
- 30-Worldwide Prayer For World Evangelization
- 31-The Soon Return Of Jesus

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