

Week Nine 6/9/18

JOSHUA

"A Study in Strength"

Sin in the Camp:

Read Joshua 7:1-26

Some background:

God said to Joshua:

"And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord." (Joshua 6:18-19)

God's Word is very clear! **DON'T** take the accursed things!

Here are the words that God spoke to the people of Israel:

Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. (Joshua 6:17)

As I read that the first time I still wondered...what is accursed? The people are accursed...Achan didn't take any people for himself?

But when you read it carefully...the city is doomed (It is cursed) the city...the whole city...meaning all that is in the city...including the people.

What did Achan take?

His own words condemned him: "A beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels."

Not only did he take what was accursed...he took what was the Lord's!

We need to be in God's word and carefully read it to know what He requires of us!

And of course, he wasn't hiding anything from God...in Numbers we read that our sin will find us out!

But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out. (Numbers 32:23)

There are some lessons we can learn from the story of Achan.

First, our sins are never personal. Thirty-six people died due to Achan's sin. People may not die from our sin, although they could (Impaired driving) they are certainly affected by our sin. Especially those who are closest to us!

Secondly, when we do sin, we are to **immediately**, confess and repent of our sin.

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What is confession?

What does repentance mean?

God tells us in His word that we are to confess our sins to Him and He will forgive our sin. James 5:16 tells us to "**Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**"

1 John 1:9 tells us: **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Achan had time...(one whole day) to repent and confess his sin...but he continued to hide it.

Confession has two purposes.

First, it enables us to draw near God again...our unconfessed sin separates us relationally from God...and it grieves the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 59:1-2 says **“Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”**

Secondly, it enables us to use that sin, that horrible moment in life, as part of our testimony to give others hope and encouragement. Think of the testimony of an alcoholic who confessed and was delivered from that addiction...to that of one struggling with addiction. Unless you have confessed it, and received healing, you cannot use that testimony to help others.

God will use our sins help others struggling with the same sin...and bring Him glory if we confess them and turn from them.

Thirdly, we are in a battle every day with our flesh. But as Paul writes to the Ephesians, the battle is much more sinister than that.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

What happens when God's Word says no...but our fleshly desires say, "I want that?" We know it is wrong because we know the Word of God...yet the flesh wants what the flesh wants! And the enemy is there the whole time cheering us on, tempting us... "Did God really say "Not," to do that?"

Are we prepared, have we purposed in our hearts (Daniel 1:8) to trust God and His Word? Achan wasn't! The lure of a Babylonian robe and the riches more powerful to him than trusting in God.

And that is what it really comes down to, "**Trust.**" Achan had been in the desert for the last twenty some years...all he knew was sand and tents. All he had were the clothes on his back, the sandals on his feet, and Manna for food. God took the Manna away...he had to be struggling with how he was going to provide for his family. He saw the wealth behind the city walls and immediately said in his heart "I desire that life for myself and my family." He took what he wanted to start his new life...a life filled with the finer things of life. He buried them under his tent.

He purposed in his heart to do what was right in his own eyes...even if that meant it was against God's will for his life.

He tried to hide his sin by burring deep within the confines of his tent.

But, his sin found him out!

How many times have we allowed our fleshly desires to circumvent God's will for our life?

What is hidden deep inside of our hearts...just ready to come to the surface when faced with a tough decision?

Be sure, our sin will find us out...and yes, in the most extreme cases...there is a sin that leads to death!

