

Joshua 7:1-26 –The Hidden Cost of Sin and the Power of Surrender

Compromise Leads to Defeat

Achan's disobedience wasn't just about stealing—it was about failing to honor God's command. God had given clear instructions that everything in Jericho was to be devoted to Him. But Achan saw something desirable, took it for himself, and hid it, thinking no one would know. As a result, Israel suffered an unexpected defeat at Ai.

How often do I compromise in small ways, thinking it won't affect anyone else? Maybe I hold on to a habit, an attitude, or a secret sin, thinking it's private. But just like Achan, my disobedience impacts more than just me. It weakens my spiritual life, my family, and even my church community. Hidden sin leads to hidden struggles, and sooner or later, it will surface.

Self-Confidence Without God Leads to Failure

After the miraculous victory at Jericho, Israel assumed they could take Ai with ease. They didn't pray, they didn't seek God's guidance—they just assumed they had it under control. And they failed.

I've done the same thing. After experiencing a spiritual breakthrough, I sometimes think, *I've got this!* I stop relying on God and start relying on my own strength. That's when failure comes. Jesus said, *"Apart from Me, you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). No matter how small the battle seems, I need Him. Victory isn't about my strength or past successes—it's about my ongoing dependence on the Lord.

Sin Must Be Confronted

Joshua was devastated when Israel lost the battle. He fell on his face, crying out to God. But God told him, *"Stand up! Why have you fallen on your face? Israel has sinned"* (Joshua 7:10-11). There was no point in praying until the sin was dealt with.

Sometimes, I pray for victory while ignoring the very thing that's causing defeat. I ask God for peace, but I hold on to resentment. I ask for joy, but I entertain sin in my heart. I ask for His presence, but I ignore His conviction. God wants me to come to Him in honesty, confess my sin, and let Him cleanse me (1 John 1:9).

Small Sins Have Big Consequences

Achan thought his sin was private, but it affected all of Israel. Because of one man's disobedience, thirty-six soldiers lost their lives, and the nation suffered humiliation.

Likewise, my sin isn't just about me. If I choose disobedience, it affects my relationships, my influence, and even my spiritual community. It weakens my witness and hinders the work of God in my life and the lives of those around me.

Sin Can't Be Hidden from God

Achan hid the stolen treasures in his tent, but God saw everything. Eventually, he was exposed.

I might be able to hide sin from people, but I can't hide from God. He sees the thoughts I don't express, the attitudes I try to justify, the temptations I secretly indulge. The amazing thing is—He doesn't expose my sin to shame me but to free me. When He convicts me, it's not because He wants to punish me but because He wants me to repent and walk in freedom.

God Wants My Surrender, Not My Strength

Achan's sin was rooted in *covetousness*. He saw something he wanted and took it, rather than trusting God's provision. I can fall into the same trap—grasping for what I think I need instead of trusting God to provide in His time and His way.

God calls me to surrender. He wants my heart, my desires, my ambitions. When I hold something back, I risk allowing it to become an idol. But when I give everything to Him, I experience true victory.

Final Reflection

This passage reminds me that:

- ✓ **Victory requires dependence on God.** I need Him in every battle, big or small.
- ✓ **Sin must be confronted.** I can't ignore hidden sin and expect spiritual success.
- ✓ **Obedience leads to blessing.** Trusting God's way brings victory and peace.

Lord, help me to live in full surrender. Show me anything in my heart that I've held back from You. Keep me from the trap of self-reliance, and teach me to trust You in every battle. May my life bring You glory, and may I never settle for anything less than full obedience. Amen.