

JOSHUA 7
“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO Joshua 7...

LET'S PRAY -

INTRO -

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: **“Defeat in the Land of Victory”**

WERE GOING TO SEE JUST THAT... JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES
EXPERIENCE THEIR FIRST DEFEAT IN THE PROMISED LAND

- We all know the victories of Joshua
 - [Kids Bible]
 - The defeats are just as real as the victories

JUST TO GET CAUGHT BACK UP TO SPEED:

- Chap 1- Joshua's commission, Be Strong and Courageous
- Chap 2- Rehab hides Israel Spies and tells them the peoples hearts melted
- Chap 3 -Big step of Faith crossing over the Jordan River
- Chap 5 - Joshua meets The commander of the Lord Army
- Chap 6 - God gives them victory at Jericho
 - Look at Verse 18.
- If you were in Joshua's shoes you would be on a spiritual high and feel like nothing can stop you at this point.

BUT THEN CHAPTER 7 OPENS UP WITH THE WORD, “BUT”

- Overview of Chapter:
 - Maybe Joshua didn't even know it was possible to experience defeat in the Land God had promised to them
 - Maybe you thought that when you became a Christian that your problems would go away to
 - Understand that when they crossed the Jordan they were crossing into a warzone.

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

MOSES TOLD THE PEOPLE DUET 11:11 NLT

- “...The land you will soon take over is a land of hills and valleys...”
 - That describes the the spiritual life of the Christian

LET'S GET INTO OUR STUDY

(READ V 1-9 NLT)

IDEA 1 - Self-Reliance: A Tale of Two battles

HERE WE BEGIN TO SEE A DICHOTOMY BETWEEN JERICHO AND AI

- At Jericho they were fully dependant on God at an insurmountable battle against their foe and God gave them victory
 - Typically in militaristic strategy you want to attack the smaller enemies first but God wipes out their greatest challenge first.
- Yet when they were up against a much smaller foe they failed miserably

AI IN HEBREW LITERALLY MEANS “HEAP OF RUINS”

- That should tell us something about how big the city was
 - And it's often the little things that really ruin our relationship with the Lord
 - The Bible says “It’s the little Foxes that ruin the vineyard”
 - The little things that we ignore are some of the most damaging things...

AI REPRESENTS A LIFE OF COMPROMISE

- 3 Things that happen in a life of compromise:
 - 1. Death
 - Compromise Is like a cancer, If you allow it to take root in your life, it doesn't matter if the rest of your body is healthy, that area of compromise with spread and it must be cut out before it leads to death
 - 2. Retreat

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

- Compromise attacks the very unity of the troops on the battle ground and when there is compromise in your life it breaks unity with those around you.
- 3. Fearful Hearts
 - Verse 5 - They were paralyzed with fear and their hearts melted - juxtapose that with what Rehab told the spies who went to Jericho Chap 2:11
 - The difference is that there the camp had been compromised spiritually
- 2 Corinthians 2:24 NKJV “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ...”
 - But when we become compromised and self-reliant we stop following God’s lead in triumph
 - Which kind of a life do you want? Jericho or Ai?
 - I chose Jericho. It's weird with shooting and trumpeting and marching... but that is where you start to see unexpected victories in your life.

WE WANT TO LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF HISTORY

- A mistake that Joshua made was that he prayed Second and not first
 - Maybe if he prayed first God should have revealed the sin and 36 men would not have died
 - Key: Praying second is a sign of self-reliance
 - When you pray after you purchase a car, or after you agree to a business deal, or after you made that commitment
- Pride leads to prayerlessness (They were filled with self-confidence and failed to seek the Lord for direction)
 - “There is no experience in Christian living so full of danger as the flush of victory ... The second reason for the failure of Israel at Ai was manifestly neglect of Prayer is quite clear from the reading of the second verse that Joshua at this moment failed to wait on God he didn’t go back to Gilgal. Flushed with a victory at Jericho immediately made plans to capture the next portion of territory.” (Alan Redpath, Victorious Christian Living)

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

- Joshua felt unstoppable in this moment but forgot the reason why he was unstoppable

THE THING WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS:

- The Israelites could not be defeated by the canaanites because If God is for us who can stand against us
 - However they could be defeated by alienating themselves from God’s plan and Power
 - They learned an important lesson here. That they could loss in the promised land

(READ V 10-15 NLT)

IDEA 2 - There Sin in the Camp

IF YOU’VE BEEN AROUND CALVARY YOU’VE HEAR THAT SAYING BEFORE

- Don't get me wrong the pastors job at this church is not to be “Sin Sniffers” we’re not looking for your secret sin but understand that your hidden sins will be made open
 - Your Spouse might not know
 - Your Boss might not know
 - But You know and God knows and on the authority of God's word It will come out sometimes in the most inconvenient times
 - Numbers 32:23 NKJV, “...and be sure your sin will find you out.”

WHEN WE TELL OURSELVES THAT OUR SIN WON'T HURT ANYONE WE LIE TO OURSELVES

- When you send that text message or go to that website, when you flirt with a coworker, “Its innocent flirting after all and my spouse would never find out”
 - Its very likely that Achan told himself the same lie that its not hurting anyone but it lead to the death of 36 soldiers and the destruction of his family

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

- The bible says that we are all part of one body, and if one part suffers we all suffer.
- If you in the church become cold hearted towards God and begin to compromise in your faith it's contagious and spreads to the rest of the body.
 - “No individual Christian can sin without affecting the whole church. No child of God can grow cold in his spiritual life without lowering the temperature of everyone else around him” Alan Redpath Victorious Christian Living
 - The bible reinforced that idea in Ecclesiastes 9:18 “but one sinner can destroy much that is good”

MAYBE YOU'RE SITTING HERE THINKING...

- “That's why I don't like the Old Testament because God is mean and angry”
 - He is not angry for anger's sake, but he is livid that his people are getting ripped off and choose the lesser lot in life
- Here is the Good news:
 - Israel was under an If-Then covenant with God... Meaning that if they followed him he would bless them, if they didn't then he would remove his hand from them.
 - Our position with God is made by the work of Jesus on the cross and not by our works
 - However our sin hinders us from our fellowship with God and victory in our lives.
 - 1 John 1:6 NLT “So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.”

ACHAN'S SIN AND TEMPTATIONS IS MUCH LIKE MANY OF US

- The bible says that “the Love of money is the root of all evil”
 - And the specific sin Achan committed was stealing from what was dedicated to the treasury of the Lord.
 - [READ 6:18]

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

- The sad thing is that If only Achan had waited and was obedient to the Lord, God would have blessed him with much more...
 - Take a look at Chapter 8...
 - If only Achan was obedient to the Lord our story would have looked much different
- Biblically we are to honor the Lord with the first fruits of our labor and if Achan would have waited and honored the Lord with what belonged to him the Lord would have given him much more.
 - The New Testament prescribes how exactly we honor the Lord with our first fruits:
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 “Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”
 - If you don't honor the Lord in your first fruits how do you expect him to bless you in the harvest
 - And here is the key: You can not outgive God

WHEN THEY WERE AT JERICHO GOD DID ALL OF THE WORK

- And so he deserved all of the Glory.
 - He just invited the Israelites around for the ride in a victory march
 - The principle is that when you allow God to do the work in your life and just follow him he makes all of the pieces fall into place. “He makes all things work together for the good of those that Love God”

IDEA 3 - What's Holding You Back

(READ V 16- 21NLT)

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

GOD GAVE ACHAN TIME TO REPENT AND CONFESS AND EACH TIME THE CLAN OR FAMILY THAT WAS CHOSEN HIT A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME

- But this is not true repentance, this is called being busted even though the Lord gave him many chances to repent
 - Hes is a day late and a dollar short

WHEN HE IS CAUGHT RED HANDED NOTICE WHAT HE SAYS:

- The 3 verbs in verse 21:
 - 1. I Saw
 - 2. I Coveted
 - 3. I Took
 - James 1:15 NKJV “Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”
 - Our secret sin is not secret at all because our lives are laid open before the Lord and those are the things that hinder our walk with God.
 - 1 John 2:16 NKJV “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life- is not of the Father but is of the world”

(READ V 22- 26NLT)

THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID ABOUT LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME

- It may seem harsh for all of Achan’s family to share in the same fate as Achan but we see the opposite in the previous chapter.
 - Because of Rahab’s faith she was able to save her whole family
 - Rahab's faith saved her family while Achan’s disobedience condemned his.

NOW THERE’S A PROBLEM WITH THIS:

- The Jewish law taught that a son should not pay the penalty for the sins of his father
 - And since the goods were hidden in the tent it implies something about this family... It implies that his family were complacent and condoning of this behavior

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

- Take a look at Romans 1:28-32 ESV

■ “And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

- The question becomes: How are you leading your family, In faith or in sinful behaviors?

OUR COVETOUSNESS HAS ROBBED GOD OF THAT WHICH HE CLAIMED

- Now what has God claimed? follow me on this... he's claimed you.
 - If you're in Christ you belong to him completely and totally. But if you have covetousness you will withhold your heart from God... to love the world is to deny God complete access to our heart the very thing Jesus purchased with the payment of his Blood
 - He must be Lord of all or he's not Lord at all

I WANT TO TRANSITION TO A TEACHING MOMENT SO BARE WITH ME

- The Israelites were halted from taking the land that God promised to them.
 - The boundaries of the promised land are described in Genesis 15:18 and again to Joshua in chapter 1:4
 - included everything from the Nile River in Egypt to Lebanon (south to north) and everything from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River (west to east).
 - On today's map, the land God has stated belongs to Israel includes everything modern-day Israel possesses, plus all of the territory occupied by the Palestinians (the West Bank and Gaza), plus some of Egypt and Syria, plus all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq
 - If you map out the area on a map Israel only took a small fraction of the land that was promised to them.

JOSHUA 7

“Defeat in the Land of Victory”

- Can you imagine only taking 10% or 20% of the promises that God has for you
- God’s promise to Joshua was that “everywhere your foot treads will be given to you.”
 - The Israelites were halted from taking the land that was given to them because of their sin and similarly we can be halted from capturing all of the promises God has for us.
 - Don't be a 10% or a 20% christian.
 - God wants to bless you to overflow in the battles in your life that are both small and large.

CALL WORSHIP UP

APPLICATION

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT GOD IS THAT HE GAVE JOSHUA COMFORT

- God reminds Joshua to not be afraid or discouraged...
 - This is the same encouragement the God gave to Joshua when he first commissioned him.
 - When we experience defeat sometimes we lose sight of the promises that God has given to us.
 - The beautiful thing about God is that he is faithful to us even when we are unfaithful.
 - It's only through obedience that we can experience victory

PRAY

- Jericho vs Ai, Total dependence vs self reliance