

## Marching to Victory: A Costly but Valuable Lesson Josh 7

Prologue: the plot – verse 1

What creates the story's tension? Israel trespasses in **the accursed thing**

Who is responsible? **Achan**

What is the tension? **God's anger against Israel** {Josh 6:18}

Scene 1: Joshua reconnoiters Ai – verses 2-3

Has Joshua done this before and listened to his spies? **Yes**

Scene 2: Israel attacks Ai and is defeated – verses 4-5

What battle plan does Joshua enact that differs from Jericho's plan?

1. He only sent **3,000** instead of all {Josh 1:14; 6:3}
2. What seems to be missing compared to Israel's earlier actions?
  - a. **God speaking to Joshua** Josh 1:1-9; 4:1; 5:2; 6:2
  - b. **Ark of the Covenant** Josh 3:3ff; 4:5ff; 6:4ff

What happens to the spirit of Israel? **melts, becomes water** {Josh 5:1}

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE: GOD TESTS MEN'S HEARTS** {Ps 7:9}

What could God have done differently? (compare Josh 6:27)

Scene 3: Joshua brings his complaints before the Lord – verses 6-9

Joshua correctly went to the Lord in the face of defeat!

What were some of the errors in Joshua's prayer?

1. Forgot God's **covenant** cp Josh 1:2-9
2. Forgot God's **power** cp Num 14:2-4
3. Forgot God's **displeasure** more important than human's

What was the truth in Joshua's prayer?

**\*\*\*man's actions always reflect on God's glory\*\*\***

### **Truth: Under stress of circumstances, we can revert to old ways**

Scene 4: God shows Joshua Israel's sin and remedy – verses 10-15

What was Joshua's wrong assumption? **defeat b/c Israel's weak**

Notice God's list of Israel's violations – verse 11 [how many? - 6]

Why does God require sanctification? verse 13

1. God is holy and demands it {Ex 19:10-11; Josh 3:5}
2. Only way to overcome enemies and evil {Rom 12:21}

Why was the offender to die and be burned? Verse 15

1. He had transgressed the **covenant** of the Lord
2. He had wrought **folly** in Israel

**Truth: God always takes sin seriously b/c sin leads to death**

Scene 5: Joshua discovers Achan's sin – verses 16-23

What was the process Joshua used to discern Achan's guilt? **Urim**

Why did God use such a long process of judgment?

1. All Israel would see **the corruption of sin**
2. Achan was given time to repent but like Jericho, hardened

Was Achan's confession true repentance? {1 Sam 15:24; Matt 27:4}

1. What did he do when Ai defeated Israel?
2. What did he do as the judgment process narrowed to him?
3. Was he aware of his sin? [he hid them] {Num 32:29; Prov 28:13}

What were the steps of Achan's sin? verse 21

1. He was **discontent** with God's plan for his life
2. He **coveted** what did not belong to him (**mantle of Shinar - chic**)
3. He **stole** and hid the devoted, *herem*, items

Scene 6: Joshua and Israel judge Achan – verses 24-25

Why did Achan's family and goods have to be destroyed?

**BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE: sin stops blessing, judgment follows sin, repentance reinstates blessing! See Acts 5**

Scene 7: Memorial raised – God's anger turned – verse 26

Achan and Achor – play on words – means trouble

**Truth: God is not willing any should perish but that they repent!**

(see 2 Pet 3:9; Hosea 2:15; Isaiah 65:10)

Other Lessons:

1. Sin never affects just the sinner - "no man is an island to himself"
2. Sin is always destructive
3. Apart from God, our perspective is flawed and decisions also flawed
4. God's holiness & glory will always be manifested, with or w/o man