

The Christian Pilgrimage – Judgement and Deliverance

This week – We continue our series on how God blesses those who exercise faith in Him.

*And Achan answered Joshua, and said,  
 “Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God  
 of Heaven, and thus and thus have I done”  
 Joshua 7v20.*

**Bible Readings for this week:**

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Joshua 6v15-27 (God’s condition for blessing)	
Monday	Joshua 7v1-9 (The humiliating defeat at Ai)	
Tuesday	Joshua 7v10-15 (Achan’s sin is known to God)	
Wednesday	Joshua 7v16-26 (Achan’s sin exposed and judged)	
Thursday	Joshua 8v1-13 (God’s blessing on Israel to defeat Ai)	
Friday	Joshua 8v14-29 (Israel’s defeat of Ai)	
Saturday	Joshua 8v30-35 (The blessing of obeying God)	

**Important Thought for us Today:** Can God’s order to the Israelites to kill men, women, and children throughout Canaan be justified?

**We note:** 1. This was the judgement of God on an intensely evil society. The Canaanite worship of their idols included the brutal sacrifice of their own children, and this gross sin required immediate intervention by God.

2. The victories over Jericho and Ai were achieved by God without man’s aid; all the other battles were preceded by an offer of peace if the Canaanites would accept God’s rule for the land (the 10 Commandments), but these were vehemently rejected by all the tribes and cities, (except the Gibeonites, (see Joshua 9)).

3. After Jericho, and Ai, the Canaanites started the battles in defiance of God’s offer of peace, and His declared rule in the land.

**God is serious about sin. That is why He sent His Son to die for sinners on Calvary.**

**Hymn 104v3 - Praising God’s mercy and forgiveness of our sin, which deserves His judgement:**

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| 1. Vast are Thy works, Almighty Lord,<br>All nature rests upon Thy word,<br>And every race of creature stands<br>Waiting their portion from Thy hand.                       | 2. But when Thy face is turned, they mourn,<br>And dying to the dust return;<br>Both man and beast their souls resign;<br>Life, breath, and spirit, all are Thine. |
| 4. At Thy mere touch the mountains smoke,<br>And earth stands trembling at Thy stroke!<br>Yet humble hearts may seek Thy face,<br>And trust their needs to sovereign grace. | 5. In thee our hope and wishes meet,<br>O make our meditations sweet,<br>Praises shall all our hearts employ<br>Till they translate to endless joy.                |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

## Achan Hides His Sin.

- **The Children of Israel saw with their own eyes God’s power and mercy.**
  - **The Walls of Jericho** fell by an act of God; the Children of Israel just obeyed.
  - **Rahab’s house on the wall** was miraculously saved because she put God first.
- **The Conditions for Victory and Future Blessing. (Joshua 6v17-19).**
  - Usually after a battle the people were allowed to take any treasures (spoils) for themselves; **But God said**, for this battle all the spoils were for Him alone.
  - God warned clearly – anyone who took for themselves would bring trouble on all.
  - With confidence a small army went out to destroy Ai, (the next city), but the Lord’s power and protection had been withdrawn. Why? What sin had been committed?
- **Achan was Tempted to Take of The Forbidden Treasure in Jericho.**
  - He could not resist a garment made of gold and silver, money and gold bars. He deliberately took them and hid them under his tent; thinking only he knew.
- **No Secrets from God - He Knows All, He Sees All, He Remembers All.**
  - God can even read our thoughts and knows our every motive. A very solemn, sin-preventing thought. Yet this did not stop Achan, so all of Israel suffered.
- **God’s Remedy - The Offender Must be Found and Punished.**
  - Achan had every opportunity to own up, to repent so that God’s mercy could be shown. But he kept quiet, hoping to get away with his sin. **A solemn warning to us.**
  - Joshua carried out a search which narrowed to the tribe, family, then to Achan. He was confronted, and only when there was no escape, he admitted his sin.
- **Achan’s Guilt Exposed by God.**
  - **‘You have taken’** - Achan deliberately and wilfully disobeyed God’s command.

**We do not just happen to steal, lie or cheat - sin is a deliberate & conscious act.**

  - **‘You have stolen’** - These treasures were God’s not Achan’s. He knew this.

**All that we have belongs to God - taking it as our own, and rejecting God, is theft.**

  - **‘You have deceived’** - He had to live a lie, and be devious, to keep his sin quiet.

**Our sin makes us lose the sense of right and wrong, making us devious liars, and cheats.**
- **The Awful Consequences of Sin.**
  - **The cost of Achan’s sin was far reaching** - 36 army men died, shame brought to his nation and to God. He paid for his sin with his own life, and that of his family.

**Sin will cost us and those around us dearly if it remains unrepented and unforgiven.**
- **God’s Love, and Mercy is Available to Us Now.**
  - God knew that sin deserves His judgement and yet He willingly planned in eternity past to send His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to save us from it.

**The Lord is calling you, now. Will you repent, and seek Him as your Saviour today?  
 Or will you leave it until Judgement Day. Achan did and it was too late.**

Jeremiah wrote of the all-searching eye of God, **“For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes.”** Jeremiah 16v17.