

SHIPWRECKED SELFISHNESS: ACHAN & ISRAEL

Joshua 7

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Be careful of “It’s just...it’s only.”

Context

- Huge win over Jericho! – Joshua 6
 - Crimson thread.
 - Rahab looked in faith to God.
 - Rahab in the line of David. Early example of Gentiles being saved by grace through faith in the one true God.
- Huge win only to be roundhouse kicked by a weak opponent – Joshua 7:1-5
 - 7:5b And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.
- The leader (Joshua) is devastated and humbles himself before God – 7:6-9
 - 7:6-7a, 9b *Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord God, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us?... ^{9b} And what will you do for your great name?”*
 - Joshua’s concern was for the people and God’s glory.
- God sends Joshua on a mission to root out the saboteurs and traitors 7:10-18
 - 7:10a, 13 *“Get up!... ^{13a} Get up!... ^{13b} You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you.”*

- Achan follows in the footsteps of Cain, Adam, and Eve – 7:19-26
 - 7:19-21, 25a, 26b *Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.”²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did:²¹ when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”...^{25a} And Joshua said, “Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord brings trouble on you today.”...^{26b} Then the Lord turned from his burning anger.*
 - The higher the stakes, the more important you play the right notes.

Relationship applications

- Be careful when “It’s just...it’s only...” pops up in our thinking.
- Be mindful: What has God said?
- When your plans fail, get up, and seek God.
- When your heart melts, go to the Rock.
- Joshua’s prayer was out of concern for the people and God’s name. These are the marks of a great unifying leader.
 - What is the mission of your relationship? Family? Business? School? Team? Church?
 - What’s best for Us to fulfill our mission vs. What seems best for me (exclusively) at the moment?